

Kuwaiti crown prince warns against pro-democracy rallies

KUWAIT (AP) — Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah warned that his government was determined to quell pro-democracy rallies, newspapers reported Tuesday.

Sheikh Saad charged that the rallies threatened to undermine Kuwait's security and sought to achieve goals beyond the restoration of the dissolved parliament.

"The government, which believes the escalation of the situation will not serve the interests of the country, will not be lenient toward any attempt to undermine the homeland's security and stability," Sheikh Saad told newspaper editors whom he summoned to a meeting at his office Monday.

In his remarks, published by all major Kuwaiti newspapers, Sheikh Saad said his government had remained patient as it monitored meetings calling for the return of the 50-member parliament dissolved in 1986.

But some participants, he said, spread "falsities and exaggerations... until these gatherings recently followed a trend of escalation, defiance and provocation."

Some of those who took part in the rallies "turned out to have targets beyond the restoration of the parliamentary life," he said, without elaborating.

Sheikh Saad was alluding to at least four rallies called by activists and former members of parliament at private diwanis in different areas of Kuwait.

The last was in Farwaniya, 15 kilometres south of Kuwait City on Jan. 22, when security men

used water cannons and tear gas to disperse the crowd.

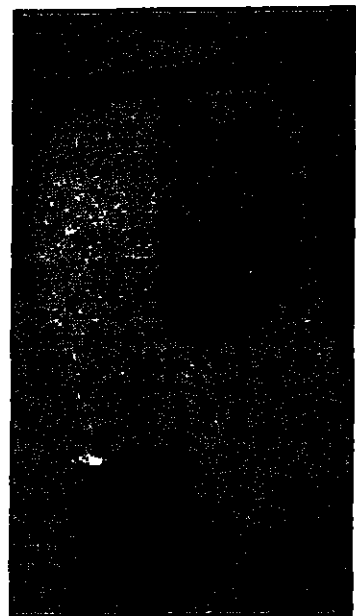
Diwanis are large halls of homes where men gather for late night conversations on the topics of the hour. Large numbers turned out for the recent diwanis which the activists advised were to deal with the issue of democracy, in defiance of an Interior Ministry ban on large gatherings.

Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Sabah told journalists Monday that five Kuwaitis arrested in connection with the Farwaniya rallying had been freed.

The crown prince repeated his call for a dialogue conducted "in the spirit of responsibility and in a calm atmosphere to arrive at the best formula that fulfils our national aspirations and enable us to avert the drawbacks of the previous experiments."

The Kuwaiti government, led by the Emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, has been stressing its belief in democracy but appears to be advocating a national dialogue to lead to a legislative body of different shape from that of the 50-member elected parliament.

Parliament was dissolved and censorship clamped on the press after politicians harshly criticised ministers in 1986, a time when Kuwait was a primary target of



Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Kuwait, is seen in a photograph.

Iranian threats in the fallout of the eight-year Iran-Iraq war. The war came to a halt in August 1988.

The Kuwaiti parliament, the only elected legislative body among the Arab countries of the Gulf, except for a brief experience in Bahrain in the mid-1970s, was also dissolved for four years as of 1976 after a similar parliament-government confrontation, mainly on internal policies.

Sheikh Saad complained that relations with Arab and other friendly countries were being jeopardised "as a result of irresponsible statements by some deputies."

Among other things, he was apparently alluding to opinions that were sometimes heard for and against government aid to Syria.

Responding to a question, Sheikh Saad denied foreign media reports that the dissolution of parliament in July 1986 "was prompted by foreign pressures."

"Our Kuwaiti decision is independent. We don't bow to pressures or receive instructions from anybody," he said.

Asked when the censorship of local newspapers will come to an end, Sheikh Saad said he stood by his recent promise to reconsider censorship "but recent developments required that we wait for the time being."

Meanwhile, Mohammed Mubarak Al Saleh, an outspoken Kuwaiti lawyer and columnist who attended the meeting with Sheikh Saad, wrote a front-page article in Al Watan newspaper calling for the formation of a new cabinet to oversee the proposed dialogue with citizens in preparation for the return of parliamentary life.

"We believe that the present circumstances which Kuwait experiences with the advent of 1990s are completely different from those of 1986 when the present government was formed," wrote Saleh, who chairs Al Watan board of directors.

"Therefore it is high time to form a new, strong transitional cabinet that runs the dialogue, prepares for return of the parliamentary life and oversees its first stages."

Czechoslovak president offers Israeli-Palestinian mediation

PRAGUE (AP) — Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel has offered to mediate peace talks between Israel and Palestinian leaders, and invited Palestinian Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat to visit Prague, his spokesman said.

Israeli Vice Premier Shimon Peres visited Prague on Jan. 21 to discuss restoration of diplomatic ties broken off in 1967 over the 1967 Middle East war, and a future visit by Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

Last Thursday, Havel received the PLO ambassador to Prague, Sami Abdul Fattah, and spoke of the longing of Czechoslovakia for peace in the Middle East.

"Czechoslovakia could play the role of a mediator in the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue," should the two sides so wish," Havel's spokesman Michael Zantovsky quoted the president as saying.

Havel received the PLO ambassador to Prague, Sami Abdul Fattah, last week. "supported the right of the Palestinian people to their own home," while expressing "understanding for Israeli anxiety."

Havel stressed that any restoration of diplomatic ties between Czechoslovakia and Israel should not be detrimental to the relations with the Palestinians, Zantovsky said.

After Zantovsky spoke to a news conference, Havel himself appeared. One reporter asked whether his latest diplomatic initiative was not of a "messianic nature."

Havel said his intention was to help and make up for the decades of Czechoslovak passivity in the Middle East. Czechoslovakia was among the most active early supporters of the state of Israel, but in the past two decades adopted a passive foreign policy in most areas, which Havel and Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier, close friends and former dissidents, are now activating.

"If somebody makes an offer to two countries involved in years of tragic war, to help, and yet makes the impression of a messiah, then you can call it that," Havel commented.

"We are all responsible for the situation in the world. For years

Vaclav Havel we (Czechoslovakia) have been doing nothing. We were a mere passive colony," he commented. Zantovsky said Havel invited Arafat to visit Czechoslovakia, but gave no date.

M.E. Council of Churches calls for independent Palestine, Lebanese unity

AMMAN (J.T.) — The fifth general assembly of the Middle East Council of Churches voiced support for an independent Palestinian state and called for the unity and sovereignty of the Lebanese people within their internationally recognised boundaries, according to a press release received in Amman Tuesday.

The assembly, which ended its meetings in Cyprus Monday, also called for peace between Azeris and Armenians in the southern Soviet republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

The assembly "thurs its thoughts and prayers toward the Palestinian people expressing its solidarity with the people in the midst of their suffering and their longing for freedom, justice and dignity," the press release said.

"It renews its support of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state in its homeland, in the framework of a comprehensive settlement that guarantees peace and security for all states and peoples in the region."

The assembly urged governments and peoples in the region and throughout the world to contribute effectively toward the implementation of these rights. It looks to Jerusalem, as the focus of our common spiritual pilgrimage and as a symbol of encounter and harmony between all religions. It also emphasises that the destiny of Jerusalem lies at the heart of the message and witness of the Christians of the Holy Land," the press release said.

The assembly called for the promotion of dialogue between the people of the three great monotheistic faiths. "It salutes all Jews who work for peace and support the human and national rights of the Palestinians."

The assembly calls upon

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Aoun threatens to cut water, electricity

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's military leader General Michel Aoun has threatened to cut water and electricity to mainly Muslim west Beirut if President Elias Hrawi continues sanctions aimed at ousting him. "The word will be faced with a word, the cannon with a cannon, starvation with starvation, drought with drought and electricity cuts with a blackout," said Aoun in comments published by local newspapers Tuesday. Hrawi's government has taken a series of diplomatic and administrative measures aimed at toppling Aoun, who controls the Falangist enclave and refuses to recognise the president. "We are practising our legitimate right of self-defence. Let whoever started this war bear its results and go to hell," said Aoun, addressing students Monday at the shell-blasted presidential palace he occupies in east Beirut. Lebanon's main power station, at Zouk in the enclave, still supplies west Beirut with six hours of electricity in every 18-hour period. The waterworks in the enclave also supplied west Beirut for several hours every few days. Both water and electricity are rationed in both sectors of the capital.

U.N. chief seeks UNIFIL renewal

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Admitting that United Nations forces have been unable to function properly in Lebanon, the U.N. Secretary General Monday nevertheless asked the Security Council to renew the mandate of 5,800 military personnel stationed there. Javier Perez de Cuellar said in a report that the U.N. was unable to implement its mandate in southern Lebanon where Israel has strengthened its grip on the region. The Council will meet on the issue Wednesday. Formed in 1978, the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), has proved anything but interim. It was dispatched to confirm the withdrawal of Israeli forces after a 1978 invasion and to help restore the authority of the Lebanese government in southern Lebanon. However, it is unable to deploy its forces up to the Israeli border because of a "security zone" manned by Israeli troops and their South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia allies to prevent guerrilla incursions into northern Israel. Perez de Cuellar said that Israel, during the past year, had expanded deployment of its military and those of the SLA in sectors manned by U.N. forces. "This is a matter of growing concern in Lebanon," he said.

N. Yemen sees stability in union

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — The unification of North and South Yemen, expected late this year after both countries ratify a draft constitution, will add to the stability of the Arabian peninsula, North Yemen President Ali Abdullah Saleh has said. Saleh said the discovery of oil along the border of the two countries has encouraged their merger, which is expected to occur on Nov. 30. Saleh, on a week-long visit to the United States, told reporters that the draft constitution now awaiting ratification would eliminate political and economic differences between the two nations and help their modernisation. "You can rest assured Yemeni union is coming for sure," he said. Saleh said the single country would be a source of stability and added, "the new state will have no objective that will disturb the stability of the region." Saleh said the 1984 discovery of oil created better opportunities for bringing the two countries together. They have created a joint venture company to develop their oil resources at the same time unification talks are continuing.

Israel, E. Germany discuss ties

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — Israeli and East German diplomats have begun talks on warming diplomatic relations chilled for 40 years by the shadow of the Nazi Holocaust, Israeli's ambassador in Denmark said. Ambassador Amos Gonor said the talks in a secret venue in the Danish capital touched on Israel's insistence that East Germany accept part of the moral responsibility for the murder of six million Jews by the Nazis during World War II. "But the talks are about more than just diplomatic relations and reparations for survivors of the Holocaust," Gonor said, without elaborating. An East German spokesman, reading a brief statement following the talks, said the meeting, "was conducted in a businesslike atmosphere." East Germany was the only Soviet Bloc country not established ties with Israel after its independence in 1948. All except Romania severed the ties after the 1967 Middle East war. West Germany accepted blame for the Holocaust and has paid billions of dollars in reparations to Israel and to individual Jewish war survivors since the 1950s. East German Prime Minister Hans Modrow said in Vienna Friday that, following the ouster of the previous Communist regime, his country was ready to discuss relations with Israel and to air the problem of reparations.

U.S. to sell \$773m in arms to Egypt, Israel

WASHINGTON (R) — The Bush administration has announced it planned to sell \$773 million in Apache attack helicopters and Hellfire missiles to Egypt and Israel.

The proposal went to Congress as some lawmakers were already questioning whether to continue high-level defence aid to Egypt and Israel at a time of shrinking budgets and Eastern European need for U.S. financial help.

Pentagon officials, who asked not to be identified, said they expected the sale to become official in 30 days without a veto from Congress.

The Pentagon announcement said Egypt would buy 24 Apache attack helicopters, 492 Hellfire air-to-ground missiles, launchers, spare engines and other equipment for \$488 million.

Israel would buy a package including 19 Apaches and 539 Hellfires for \$285 million, the announcement said.

Although such sales carry a high price, their cost is often written off against foreign military credits to the two countries.

Senate Republican leader Robert Dole recently suggested that the United States might have to reconsider its high level of aid earmarked for nations such as Egypt, Israel and Pakistan in order to provide more help for

emerging democracies in Eastern Europe.

The Pentagon also announced Monday that the administration intended to sell 10 AH-1F Cobra attack helicopters and missiles to Pakistan for \$89 million.

Both the Apache and Cobra are designed to attack and destroy enemy tanks, and the Pentagon said the three countries needed the weapons in question.

"The Egyptian Air Force has a growing need for a more versatile and heavily armed helicopter gunship," the Defence Department said, noting that neighbouring Arab states were obtaining increasingly sophisticated weaponry.

Egypt and Israel were once bitter enemies but are now on better terms and the Pentagon said the sales would contribute to Washington's foreign policy and national security interests.

Prime contractor on the Apache sale is McDonnell Douglas Helicopter Co. The Hellfire missiles is made by Rockwell International Corp and Martin Marietta Corp, and the Cobra helicopter by Textron Inc's Bell Helicopter Division.

Tank deals in doubt

Meanwhile the United States defence budget for fiscal 1991

unveiled Monday has cast doubt over \$2 multi-billion deals to sell tanks to Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

The decision to close the two production lines manufacturing the M1 Abrams tanks by early 1993 leaves both contracts up in the air, defence experts said.

The Bush administration said last October it wanted to sell 315 M-1A2 tanks to Saudi Arabia in a deal worth up to \$6 billion. It painstakingly shepherded the deal through Congress, overriding the objections of the powerful pro-Israel lobby.

Earlier, it had agreed to co-produce 540 of the less advanced M-1A1 model with Egypt, a deal valued at around \$2 billion. The tanks were to be assembled in Egypt from kits produced in the United States.

Defence Secretary Dick Cheney denied in a news conference on the \$306.9 billion defence budget proposals that the decision meant the end of the deals.

"There is enough, I believe, in terms of foreign sales, so that one of the lines will be able to run for a period of time to satisfy the Saudi and the Egyptian buys," he said.

But State Department spokesman Richard Boucher acknowledged that the deals would have to be reassessed. In the absence

of domestic orders, unit costs to produce the tanks for Saudi Arabia are certain to rise drastically.

"The Defence Department is discussing with the Saudis the Saudi purchase, and what the implications of the Defence Department's decisions on tanks are for Saudis," he said.

The decision appeared to open the way for the United States' international rivals such as Britain and West Germany to attempt to grab the lucrative Saudi order.

The M1 is built by General Dynamics Corp at two plants in Detroit and Lima, Ohio. The budget proposed building 225 in fiscal 1991, of which 60 would be the first batch of M-1A2s.

The budget proposal said the Detroit plant would be closed at the end of September 1991 and the Ohio plant in March 1993 if there were not enough foreign orders to keep it open.

"With more than 7,000 (M-1A1s) now in the inventory, with a shrinking force structure with respect to our requirements in Europe... we decided to shut down the M-1 production line in 1991," said Cheney.

Senator Carl Levin, who represents workers at the Detroit plant, said he would fight the proposal.

Ankara condemns attack on ethnic Turks in Greece

ANKARA (R) — Turkey Tuesday condemned attacks against ethnic Turks in the Greek town of Komotini but said Athens had pledged to do its best to stop such incidents.

"We vehemently condemn the tolerant attitude of the Greek authorities to the attacks on our kinsmen," a Foreign Ministry statement said.

It said the Greek government was responsible for Monday's clashes in which 19 people were injured.

"The incident in Komotini shows how minorities are being terrorised. Human rights in West-

ern Thrace are heavily violated," the statement added.

A ministry spokesman said Greek Foreign Minister Antonis Samaras expressed understanding for Ankara's position, in a telephone conversation with his Turkish counterpart.

"The Greek minister said he understood our position and that his government was doing its best to take necessary measures... everything seems to be under control," the spokesman said.

The clash occurred after 1,500 Muslim ethnic Turks gathered near a mosque chanting "we are Turks".

Tunisia pledges \$445m on flood relief

TUNIS (R) — Tunisian President Zine Abidine Ben Ali, condemning violent protests by flood victims, pledged 400 million dinars (\$445 million) for relief work.

In a speech broadcast late Monday, Ben Ali said he sympathised with people who had had to wait several days before help arrived but that did not justify attacks on government buildings in two towns in flood-hit regions.

Crowds set fire to cars and threw stones at the headquarters of regional governments in the central town of Sidi Bouzid and the south western town of Nefta

last week in protest at the slow pace of relief operations.

Thirty people and 21,000 livestock were killed and 38,000 houses and 307 schools damaged in the flooding caused by torrential rain that began on Jan. 21.

Ben Ali said disruption to transport and communications caused by the floods had stopped relief arriving quickly.

"Although one can understand the psychological state which prevailed, that in no way justifies the behaviour of certain elements who, with no sense of patriotism, exploited the situation to incite unrest and attack public property," he said.

An official statement initially blamed Muslim militants for the unrest in Sidi Bouzid, but local residents said the militants were a minority among the protesters. Ben Ali later replaced the local governor.

The president said short-term repairs to houses, farms, schools, roads, bridges and railways would cost 200 million dinars (\$223 million). People whose homes had been damaged would start receiving compensation within three weeks.

Some of the rest of the total of 400 million dinars of relief money would be spent on preventing future floods, including building

dams, especially around five flood-prone towns in the south and centre of the country.

Fifty million dinars (\$55 million) of the total money would be found by redistributing the 1990 budget and another 50 million dinar from donations.

The government would raise the balance of 300 million dinars (\$335 million) by other methods, Ben Ali said.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia last week donated \$50 million for relief operations. Other donations have come from the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the U.N. Disaster Relief Organisation.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swatish, Tel. 61740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrestrial Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 62541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 62541
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 773331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773331
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assyrian International Church Tel. 683326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy and windy with southerly moderate in Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with northerly moderate wind and calm sea.

PRAYER TIMES

05:07 Fair
06:26 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:09 Dhuhr
14:06 'Asr
17:12 Maghrib
18:31 'Isha

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Mta./max. temp. 4/14
Amman 10/24
Aqaba 2/15
Jordan Valley 8/19

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 13, Aqaba 24. Humidity readings: Amman 35 per cent, Aqaba 17 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:
Dr. Hanna Mawardi 732574
Dr. Walid Al Mawardi 675485
Dr. Rami Mawardi 894788
Dr. Isam Al 'Abki 676666
Fawwaz pharmacy 778336
Al Asana pharmacy 677055
Nasrallah pharmacy 623672
Al Saleh pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Simoneau pharmacy 637660

IBRD:
Dr. Mahmud Saeed (—)
Al Shams' pharmacy (983236)

ZARQA:
Dr. Yahya Tazfi (—)

Khaldif pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 63041
Rescue 199
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 773121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 890390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 635001
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Oncology Clinic 610230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 621101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 801010
Water Authority 774111
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 634381
RI Flight Information 98-53220
Queen Alia Int. Airport. 08-63220

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381332
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Alkhil Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mallat, J. Amn 632400
Palestine Hospital 6641714
Shamoun Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845345
Al-Mawardi Hospital 6672719
The Islamic, Abdali 6651271
Al-Abi, Abdali 6641645
Infants, Al-Mawardi 7771013
Al-Saleh, J. Abdali 7611126
Army, Marja 82151175
Queen Alia Hospital 6024050
Anat Hospital 674135

ZARQA:
Zaqra Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zaqra National Hospital (09)991071
Bin Sam Hospital (09)986732

IBRD:

Princess Basma Hospital (02)225553
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Bin Al Nafies Hospital (03)947109

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal - 1)

07:00 Montreal, New York (RJ)
09:10 Jeddah (RJ)
09:15 Aqaba (RJ)
09:20 Cairo (RJ)
09:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:00 Doha, Kuwait (RJ)
10:15 Larissa (RJ)
10:45 Damascus (RJ)
11:00 Riyadh (RJ)
11:30 Cairo (RJ)
11:45 Riyadh (RJ)
12:00 Beirut (RJ)
12:15 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
12:30 New Delhi (RJ)
12:45 Cairo (RJ)
13:00 London, Frankfurt (RJ)
13:15 Madrid, Rome (RJ)
13:40 Chicago, New York, Vienna (RJ)
19:30 Riyadh (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

08:35 Beirut (AZ)
08:35 Zurich (SR)
09:05 Rome (AZ)
10:25 Cairo (MS)
11:00 Jeddah (SV)
13:00 Baghdad (LA)
14:00 Baghdad (LA)

13:00 Kuwait (KU)
14:10 Ankara, Istanbul (TK)
14:50 Kuwait (KU)
15:10 Frankfurt (LF)
19:25 Damascus (FK)
20:20 Damascus (FK)
21:20 Paris, Damascus (AF)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 Agaba (RJ)
11:00 Kuwait (RJ)
11:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:20 Thess, Copenhagen (RJ)
11:30 Riyadh (RJ)
11:45 London (RJ)
12:00 Damascus (RJ)
12:30 Riyadh (RJ)
12:45 Cairo (RJ)
12:50 Beirut (RJ)
13:00 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
13:15 New Delhi (RJ)
13:40 Cairo (RJ)
13:50 London, Frankfurt (RJ)
14:00 Madrid, Rome (RJ)
14:15 Chicago, New York, Vienna (RJ)
19:30 Riyadh (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

08:15 London (BA)
08:35 Beirut (AZ)
08:35 Zurich (SR)
09:05 Rome (AZ)
10:25 Cairo (MS)
11:00 Jeddah (SV)
13:00 Baghdad (LA)
14:00 Baghdad (LA)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Gls per kg

Apples 420/380
Bananas 450/400
Beans (Mekansam) 400/350
Cabbage 90/60
Carrot 230/180
Cauliflower 130/100
Cucumbers (large) 300/250
Cucumbers (small) 300/200
Dates 550/500
Eggplant 750/700
Garlic 140/100
Lemon (large) 500/250
Marrow (small) 220/180
Onion (dry) 280/240
Onion (green) 220/180
Orange 220/180
Orange (Shamoun) 340/280
Pepper (hot) 250/200
Pepper (sweet) 600/500
Potato 220/180
Radish 120/100
Sage 580/480
Spinach 180/140
Tomatoes 130/100

ACC to discuss parliament links

AMMAN (J.T.) — The four members of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) — Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen — will open a meeting in Baghdad Wednesday to discuss and plan cooperation among their parliaments.

Lower House of Parliament Speaker Salehman Arar said Tuesday the parliamentarians would discuss coordination of the ACC countries' stands at pan-Arab, regional and international conferences.

Arar, speaking shortly before leaving for Baghdad, told the meetings were the first steps in participation on the part of representatives of the people of the four countries in political affairs. The meeting, he said, "serves as a nucleus for a unified ACC parliament."

The Lower House earlier this month elected a 10-member team to the Baghdad meetings. The members, who accompanied Arar to Baghdad, would also take part in the discussions. Arar said

the Jordanian team would also launch side meetings to discuss a statute and a general plan for the activities of a unified ACC parliamentary body and elect a special committee to run the ACC's parliamentary affairs.

His Majesty King Hussein said in a nationwide address last year that the four ACC countries were in the process of forming a joint committee which would serve as a constituent framework for grouping the four countries' parliaments to pave the way for sound economic integration and collective Arab action.

The meeting in Baghdad comes before an ACC summit next month; and cooperation in parliamentary affairs as well as other areas are expected to come up at the meetings.

The delegation accompanying Arar to Baghdad also includes five Upper House of Parliament members.

Reports from Baghdad said last Tuesday that the four countries' delegations to the ACC



Salehman Arar parliamentary meetings had arrived and consultations were held later in the day among them ahead of the meeting, which opens Wednesday.

Lawzi, APU chief urge action against Soviet influx

AMMAN (J.T.) — The influx of Soviet Jews to Israel and Israel's reported plans to settle them in the occupied Arab territories were discussed at a meeting here Tuesday by Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi and Abdul Rahman Al Burawi, secretary general of the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU).

A statement issued following the meeting said the two parliamentarians called on Arab parliaments to take the offensive by launching contacts with the Soviet Union, which is allowing Jews and other groups to leave and the United States, which is "indirectly financing" the operations and the settlement of Jews in occupied Arab lands.

Discussions at the meeting also covered Israel's aggressive plans and its oppressive practices against the Palestinians in the occupied lands.

The settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied territories was also tackled in a lecture by Dr. Walid Al Khaldi, a professor at Harvard University in the United States.

"His Majesty King Hussein was the first Arab leader to sound the alarm about Soviet Jewish emigration to occupied Palestine and pointed out its far-reaching consequences on the future of the whole Middle East region," Khaldi said in a lecture delivered at the World Affairs Council in Amman Monday evening.

The new immigration move to Palestine, he said, "constitutes a danger tantamount to the 1948 tragedy and the 1967 setback that had befallen the Arab Nation."

Khaldi urged Arab countries to form delegations of heads of state to visit Moscow and discuss the issue with the Kremlin's leaders and to point out the dangers posed by such immigration to the Palestinian people and prospects of peace in the Middle East.



Prime Minister Mudar Badran (right) and his Syrian counterpart Mahmoud Zoubi Tuesday sign the minutes of a two-day meeting of the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee held in Amman (Petra photo).

Higher committee reaches accords Jordan, Syria to boost cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee Tuesday concluded a two-day meeting here after reaching agreement to increase cooperation in various fields, with the main focus on agriculture, transport and exchange of expertise.

The committee, co-chaired by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and his Syrian counterpart Mahmoud Zoubi, issued a statement outlining the agreements it had reached during the meetings, which were attended by ministers and senior officials from both sides.

Following are highlights of the statement: The committee reviewed progress achieved in the implementation of resolutions passed by the earlier meetings in Damascus and Amman and decided on the following:

1. To place the study on livestock at the disposal of investors from the private sector.
2. To entrust the concerned parties (the ministries of agriculture) in the two countries to prepare a special study on agricultural projects that would be given priority.
3. To call concerned parties to exchange expertise and visits to Jordan and Syria with a view to promoting agricultural development.
4. To call on the ministries of agriculture to exchange information on marketing and export operations using the available means of transport in the two countries.
5. To give priority to each others' agricultural products in imports.
6. To conduct studies designed to launch joint agricultural projects.

Cooperation in transport

1. The committee reviewed agreements concluded by the two countries in Damascus Jan. 10, 1990, concerning transport and transit operations and called on the concerned authorities to implement the agreements.
2. The committee discussed the prospect of increasing the number of railway transport operations.
3. The committee reviewed the work of the joint land transport company and expressed satisfaction with its operations.
4. The committee decided to call a meeting of the sub-committee on transport and transit to study transportation of Syrian goods from the Far East and Australia via Aqaba Port and to ensure the transportation of Jordan-bound goods through Syrian ports.

Electricity

The committee decided to strengthen the linkage of the national grids of the two countries. It decided to continue an exchange of expertise in energy-related fields and to carry out joint training programmes for personnel from the two countries.

Oil and mineral resources

The committee called on the concerned authorities in the two countries to exchange information and expertise in oil and mineral resources and to form a follow up committee.

Irrigation

The committee decided to call

Survey reveals chronic shortage of medicines

AMMAN (J.T.) — A survey conducted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, has revealed that there is a chronic shortage of badly needed types of medicine in the Kingdom, especially those types that are imported.

According to the survey, the crisis started last October when the Jordanian dinar sustained a sharp devaluation against foreign currencies. It said the government had failed to set a fixed rate for the Jordanian dinar. This failure led to fluctuation in prices and shortages of many types of medicine in local drug stores of the private and the public sectors.

Petra's warning of the threat to public health as a result of the lack of sufficient medicine in Jordan was echoed by Tayseer Al

Himsi, president of the Jordan Pharmacists Association (JPA). He said the crisis, which began with the devaluation, brought about the crisis. The situation was aggravated by lack of coordination between the Ministry of Health and the drug stores, Himsi said.

Jordan needs JD 35 million worth of medicine annually, most of which is used by Ministry of Health hospitals and health centres and the National Medical Institution, Himsi said.

He said nearly 30 per cent of the country's medicine requirements were met locally.

Jordan has five pharmaceutical plants some of which started operations in 1964, according to Himsi. He said the pharmaceutical

companies had been marketing their "high quality products in Jordan and abroad and selling medicines ranging from antibiotics to vitamins."

The JPA earlier submitted a memorandum to the Ministry of Health requesting that a fixed exchange rate be set for the dinar to help the process of pricing the medicine in pharmacies, Himsi said.

He said the association had prepared a new memorandum to be referred to the government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran, in order to help solve the medicine crisis.

Petra quoted several people as saying that they had failed to get proper treatment at hospitals due to the lack of medicine. One

man, Fawwaz Amin from Irbid, said he was suffering from a certain illness for the past 10 years and could not find the medication at Al Bashir government hospital in Amman or the Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid. Saeed Tawfiq from Amman said that the Al Bashir Hospital had failed to provide him with the required medicine for the past three months although he was covered by the health scheme and entitled to get medicine.

Al Bashir Hospital administration Director Abdullah Al Rahaleh said his hospital was trying to make available all types of medicine from local and foreign companies. But, he added, the hospital is facing immense pressure since at least 800 outpa-

tients visit the hospital daily requiring treatment or medication. "Not a single bed has been added to the hospital's sections dealing with paediatrics, internal diseases and maternity operations in the past 15 years," according to Rahaleh.

Petra also interviewed JPA Secretary General Ziyad Abul Hummus, who said that Jordan now faces a serious shortage of three types of medicine — those used in hospitals, medicine for chronic illnesses and light medicine used at home.

He attributed the crisis to lack of coordination between the Health Ministry on the one hand, and drug stores and local pharmacies on the other — "a situation which has now lasted for seven months."

Education essential for combatting drugs — Mahafza

IRBID (J.T.) — Drugs have become one of the most dangerous threats to society in the modern age and successive governments in Jordan have resorted to education as a means to try to counter the danger and protect the young generation, Yarmouk University President Ali Mahafza said Tuesday.

"Mobilising the educational system to help counter the danger of drugs is the proper means of social defence since education can be used to help the rising generation plan a sound and healthy future," Mahafza said in a speech he delivered at the opening of a symposium entitled "Protection from Drugs."

The symposium, which will run until the end of the present academic semester at Yarmouk University, is organised by the Amman-based regional office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

Participants in the symposium will discuss all matters related to drugs and drug addiction, types of drugs and their adverse effects

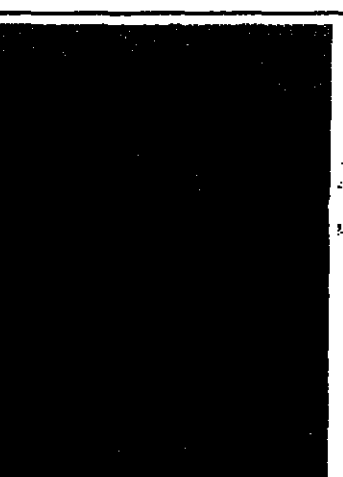
on human health and physical and psychological function. Mahafza said that the symposium was part of national efforts to provide social defence and protect future generations.

UNESCO Representative Mohammad Ibrahim Kazem paid tribute to cooperation between UNESCO and Yarmouk University and referred to the leading role that could be played by universities in improving the standards of society.

Dr. Mohammad Khawaldeh from Yarmouk University told the meeting that the university would run the symposium prior to introducing a course on drugs.

He said that Yarmouk University was chosen as a venue for the symposium because it had the potential for designing and implementing a project aimed at introducing the subject of drugs as a university course at a later stage.

The 40 participants represent the ministries of education, youth, social development, health, culture as well as Noor Al Hussein Foundation, the Queen



Ali Mahafza, the General Union of Voluntary Societies and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

Last November a five-day regional conference on drug addiction was held in Amman and speakers issued calls for the mobilisation of international efforts to combat drug addiction.

Brigadier Ghaleb Zoubi, director of the narcotics section at the Public Security Department (PSD), told the meeting that no country can ever be free from drug addiction or drug trafficking unless regional and international efforts are pooled to fend off the danger.

House committee approves accords

AMMAN (Petra) — The Financial Committee of the Lower House of Parliament met Tuesday and discussed several laws related to agreements signed in the past two years with the Saudi Development Fund, the Kuwait Fund for Economic Development and the Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development.

The committee's chairman, Dr. Abdullah Ensour, He told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the meeting recommended the approval of the laws. He said the committee discussed and endorsed the 1989 special budget and its supplement.

"Issuance of supplements for the budget and spending from the budget before the approval of Parliament is a violation of the constitution," Ensour said. He added that the committee called the Lower House to reject any similar draft law in the future.

The committee, Ensour said, wants those interested in or affected by the income tax law, the consumption tax law and the extra tax law to present their

opinions and studies on these topics to the committee. Ensour said that excellent ideas were made during speeches by deputies on the draft budget.

The Financial Committee is aware of the strengths and weaknesses of the contents of the general budget, he said. At the same time, he said, "some demands by deputies for new allocations were exaggerated at times."

"Some deputies presented demands of their respective areas and these demands are considered rational since they ask for improvements in distributing the allocations and not for new allocations," he added.

Ensour said some members of Parliament covered economic, social, technical and scientific and even political issues, which made some observers think that "this is digression from the main topic."

Ensour said he does not agree with these observers because, "debating the budget is a very special occasion that opens all the doors each year."

Baqaa camp residents demand water, electricity

AMMAN (J.T.) — Residents of the Baqaa refugee camp Tuesday handed the chairman of the financial committee of the Lower House of Parliament a memorandum with demands for water and electricity and telephone services as well as better roads.

The memorandum, presented to Dr. Abdullah Ensour during a visit he paid to the camp, also outlined the general educational and health situation in the camp and the services offered to its residents by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

The memorandum urged the government and parliament to amend an agreement between Jordanian government and UN-

RWA in a manner that would allow the government to prevent the agency from reducing any services for the refugees.

The memorandum came in the wake of strong protest by the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs expressing total opposition to UNRWA's planned cuts in services.

The department's director, Ahmad Qatani, said in a statement Friday that the agency had already started implementing its reduction programme affecting food distribution at its schools.

During his visit to the camp Ensour met with refugee representatives, listened to their requests and toured the camp's different areas.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

PANEL FORMS SUB-COMMITTEES: The Public Freedoms and Citizens' Rights Committee of the Lower House of Parliament held a meeting Tuesday and approved the committee's future programme. Committee Chairman Ahmad Al Azaidah said the committee formed two working groups; the first to study the defence law, martial law regulations, the press and publications law and the parties and political societies law, and the second is charged with following up administrative issues and reinstatement of fired employees. The committee elected Deputy Salim Al Za'bi as rapporteur to replace Deputy Abdullah Zureikat.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETS: A steering committee entrusted with drawing up the national strategy for the protection of the environment held its third meeting Tuesday under the chairmanship of Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Karim Al Dughni. The committee reviewed the work of its subcommittees and its agenda (Petra).

TRAINING COURSE FOR BAKERS: A training course will be held for interested Jordanians in bakeries under the supervision of the Vocational Training Centre in Aqaba. Applicants will be assigned to the city's bakeries, a meeting of bakery owners in Aqaba decided Tuesday. In the meeting, which was chaired by Aqaba Labour Office Director Jamal Abu Tayeh, it was decided that Jordanians who train at bakeries get JD 30 as monthly allowance and free accommodation during the training period. Bakery owners should be committed to employ the trainees after the training. This process comes within the Ministry of Labour's endeavours to tackle the problem of unemployment in the Kingdom by replacing non-Jordanian workers by Jordanians (Petra).

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITION

A plastic art exhibition which includes paintings, sculptures and ceramic works at the Spanish Cultural Centre — 5:00 p.m.

RSS to have role in global report on water

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) will participate in preparing a World Health Organisation (WHO) global report on water containing profiles of regional pollution trends at the request of the United Nations and WHO.

The proposed report is designed to assess freshwater quality on a region-by-region basis, identifying gaps in knowledge as well as needs for future monitoring assessment, to prepare regional summaries on key water quality issues as well as their present status and their likely future development, and to make recommendations for coping with water quality degradation and pollution in support of sustainable development.

The head of the Water and Social Division at RSS Environmental Research Centre, Subhi Ramadan, has been chosen by WHO and approved by RSS to conduct the study covering the region of Western Asia which includes all the Arab countries and other West Asian countries.

CONSULATE OF SRI LANKA AMMAN "NATIONAL DAY"

For the occasion of the 42nd anniversary of the Democratic Socialist Republic Sri Lanka's National Independence on Sunday 4th February 1990. The General Consulate of Sri Lanka in Jordan, has the pleasure to invite all the brothers & sisters of the Sri Lankan citizens living in Jordan, to be aware of the speeches and greetings which will be addressed by H.E. the president of the Republic of Sri Lanka, the hon. prime minister, and the hon. minister of foreign affairs, to the Sri Lankan people on this national day.

There will be a special record book for registration of greetings from 10:00 a.m. to 13:00 hrs.

1990 ප්‍රදීර්ථන 4 වනදා ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික දිනය

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Children of stones

By Philippa Neave

GAZA STRIP. Occupied Territories — An area 45 kilometres long and 10 kilometres across at its widest, completely surrounded by barbed wire is home to about 600,000 Palestinians living mostly in refugee camps: this is the Gaza Strip. With a population density of about 2,100 inhabitants per square kilometre, it is one of the most heavily populated areas of the world. It is also one of the poorest.

The Palestinians live in cramped shacks made of concrete blocks or corrugated iron, and they are not allowed to expand their shelters. The birth rate is so high that children seem to make a majority among refugees. In this hell-hole they grow up in an atmosphere of uncommon deprivation and violence.

As always, children are the first victims of war. Only this time, they are active participants, too. "One 5-year-old was beaten by the soldiers yesterday. I asked him why. He said it was because he had spat at them. I asked him why he had done that. He replied that he spat at the soldiers because the day before, Israeli troops had broken into his house, dragged his father and uncle out onto the street, beaten them and taken away their identity cards. A Palestinian without an ID cannot move from his house." This is just one example among many of what Mary Khass sees everyday; an educator, she runs 15 kindergartens in the eight refugee camps of the Gaza Strip.

In the endless spiral of violence and oppression that has now entered its third year, children are taking the lead more and more and giving momentum to the uprising (intifada). While adults often opt for non-violent forms of resistance — observing strikes,

boycotting Israeli products and jobs and refusing to pay taxes — the children are on the front line, armed with stones.

Everyday, when the streets of the camps and villages are not deserted because of round-the-clock curfews, confrontations explode between children and the troops. "It has become almost a reflex action. When they see a military jeep, the children throw stones," said 60-year-old Khass. The military retaliates by firing tear gas, live ammunition or the so-called "rubber bullets" (a steel bullet with a plastic coating of barely one millimetre, which has proven lethal). Also, a dozen children were killed by what is known as "marbles": a round plastic-coated steel bullet fired from a canister that shoots 18 at once. According to statistics, since the beginning of the intifada in December 1987, 193 children under 16 years of age have died, and about 27,000 have been injured. Close to 10,000 youths under 18 years of age are being held in Israeli prisons.

Of great concern to parents and educators is the psychological impact of daily violence on the children. Says Khass: "You should see their drawings. They invariably draw pictures of houses being blown up, soldiers shooting, people dying, blood; they draw the things they see every day."

Even when they play it's still war games. They make guns out of wood and cardboard and play at building a barricade and setting fire to tyres while soldiers shoot at them. "They also play at funerals, acting out the funeral of a martyr and chanting the slogans they are used to hearing," Khass says.

Since 1967 when Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza, the generation of Palestinians

now in their early 20s has known only the occupation. The situation is even worse for young children raised as violence escalated and poverty increased. According to recent psychological research conducted by the Union of Palestinian Women, the intifada is deeply affecting children between 3 and 9 who number 400,000 and make up about 30 per cent of the Palestinian population of the occupied territories.

"Today almost every child is exposed to events which affect his or her psychological state, replacing feelings of security and stability with fear, distress and insecurity," the study says. Children suffering most are those living in refugee camps where conditions are harsher. They display greater signs of distress, anxiety and nervousness. The study also shows that in the Gaza Strip, the "hotbed" of the intifada, children appear more self-assured.

Says Samiha Khalil, the director of "In'ash Al Ummah," the largest women's association on the West Bank which runs kindergartens as part of many other activities: "Psychologically, the children in the camps are stronger. Every day they defy the army with its jeeps and machine guns. They know they are the heroes of the intifada and they are proud of it. We know it is our children who are liberating the Palestinian people and we are proud of them."

Naturally, educators find that controlling children used to standing up to armed soldiers is difficult, if not impossible. Speaking of children in Gaza, Khass explains: "Children under 6 in our kindergartens are aggressive, restless, confused, hyperactive and almost impossible to discipline." Increasing numbers are traumatised and withdrawn completely after seeing a parent killed

or beaten, or losing a sibling. Khass adds. They refuse to speak or eat, they wake up screaming in the middle of the night or wet their bed.

"These children need proper psychiatric treatment and there are no such facilities," Khass says. "I am trying to raise funds for a project to bring a professional who has lived and worked in a crisis area to train at least 10 psychology graduates to treat these kids."

The feeling of security all children need to grow up as well-balanced adults does not exist here. "Experience life in a camp for just one night and you'll realise that kids can't even get away from it in their sleep. They are woken up by screaming, banging, ugly noises when houses are raided. It happens all the time. The soldiers run along the roofs and burst into homes in the middle of the night."

A doctor who works at a clinic run by the United Nations Relief Works Agency (UNRWA) in Arab camp in the Gaza Strip commented: "Before the intifada, my work was just routine, treating kids with infections and the like, but now cases of psychiatric and neurological diseases are increasing, as are cases of stress-induced diabetes. Another thing is that we have more and more kids suffering from chronic difficulties in breathing because of excessive exposure to tear gas."

Not even schools can offer a semblance of normality to Palestinian youths. All facilities, from kindergartens right through universities have been subject to closure by the Israeli authorities, in particular on the West Bank where over 300,000 children have lost two whole school years and are now embarking on their third year of forced holidays.



Wise beyond their age. Palestinian children are scarred by the daily horrors of occupation.

In Gaza where schools have been operating, albeit in a sporadic fashion, teachers struggle to offer continuity in the programme and deal with an overloaded system. Of the 148 schools run by UNRWA in Gaza, most run two or even three shifts of classes a day. Said an English teacher in Rafiah camp: "With classes of 45 to 47 pupils, we have a lot of trouble getting children to settle down and concentrate."

Also, despite international regulations forbidding the army to enter U.N. facilities, classes are repeatedly disrupted by Israeli raids. According to UNRWA figures, over 4,000 children have been wounded or killed by the

military inside school grounds since the start of the uprising. UNRWA officials see education as an important element for a community that has suffered long years of occupation, violence and repression. The closure of schools has been repeatedly denounced by the international community, with little and only temporary effect.

Meanwhile, Palestinian children continue to grow up with an outlook on life which is serious and politicised beyond their age. Asked why he threw stones, 6-year-old Musa from Rafiah camp said: "Because they have stolen our land and we must fight them to free ourselves and our coun-

try." Raja, 7, from Ramallah in the West Bank, explained that her father was sent to prison "because he loved his land."

"The biggest crime the Israelis are committing is to prevent children from being children. This is a crime against humanity," commented a Western diplomat in Jerusalem.

The future is bleak for the "children of the stones," as they are called, and one fears that their heart too may turn to stone. "You cannot blame a Palestinian child for growing up with hatred because all he sees is oppression, harassment and violence," Khass says. "I am afraid

that we are raising a generation of haters. On the other side, the Israelis are raising a generation of arrogant, brutal children."

Says Samiha Khalil of the women's association: "We have to try and teach our children to trust in human beings, for their own sanity. The Israelis and the Palestinians are raising generations of children who know only war, hatred and violence. What do you expect them to grow up to be? We are called moderate, I don't expect they will be. We need peace now, while there are still people willing to make peace. Later, it will be too late" — World News Link.

How did Semitic tablets end up in the Andes?

Lisa features

It is a riddle which has fired the imagination of the man-in-the-street as well as experts in archaeology and antiquity.

The question is whether there were any links between the ancient civilisations of the Old and New World? Was there any contact or communication between the Mediterranean cultures and the supposedly undiscovered Americas?

Certainly, Peruvians would like to know how three large stone tablets, inscribed with ancient Semitic hieroglyphs, came to be lying in a cave 3,000 metres high near an Inca city long ago consumed by the Andean jungle.

This intriguing discovery provides the first evidence of trans-oceanic contacts between peoples at a date far ahead of any known to orthodox historians.

The hieroglyphs are said to be Sinitic, in the style associated with Egyptian, Hebrew and Phoenician peoples. Were they taken to the Andes by travellers from ancient Sinai? Or were they brought home by far-wandering Incas?

The eminent archaeologist who found the mystery tablets has a few ideas of his own. Mr. Gene Savoy, who makes a habit of finding the lost Inca cities of Peru — he has already unearthed 43 — believes that King Solomon's sailors might have crossed the Atlantic, sailed up the Amazon, and introduced themselves to the equally sophisticated Incas.

It is a theory which many equally eminent archaeologists and historians are politely rejecting. Nevertheless, there is no ready explanation for the appearance of Semitic hieroglyphs in an old tomb where scattered bones have been carbon-dated at around AD 960.

The site forms part of what is believed to be the lost capital of the pre-Inca Chapiroyas civilisation, the largest pre-Columbian capital in the Americas.

While Mr. Savoy has baffled the academics with his mystery of the misplaced tablets, the painstaking research aimed at understanding the huge heritage of the Mayan people of Guatemala is being set back — by greed and vandalism.

The Maya built great cities of temples and pyramids and their culture flourished for more than 3,000 years before unaccountably fading into oblivion. However, their cities were preserved by encroaching rainforest, and their culture has gradually been revealed, more than 1,000 years later, as scientists have uncovered Mayan sites.

The Guatemalan government does what it can to protect the known Mayan locations with a force of full-time guards. But they are virtually powerless against the depredations of vandals and grave-robbers who strip the sites of marketable antiquities.

Many new sites are discovered only after they have already been looted by local tribesmen, for whom a well-preserved Mayan plate can raise more than they can earn in months from harvesting gum and tropical plants.

It would be invidious, however, to pile the blame entirely on the looters. The trade would not exist without the connivance of international art dealers who are prepared to put a value on artifacts without evidence of provenance.

Nevertheless, much of the real treasure of the Maya is being irretrievably lost to science. And consequently, mankind may never get to know how this remote people became so majestically accomplished in architecture, mathematics and astronomy.

Sweden to get tough, place demands on foreign aid recipients

By Eva Ahlberg
Reuter

STOCKHOLM — Sweden, one of the world's most generous donors, is beginning to look more closely at how developing countries spend the aid it gives them.

But the country's ruling Social Democrats remain committed to helping frontline states in southern Africa, leftist Nicaragua and the Communist governments Vietnam and Laos.

"We are going to clarify what we believe is the best way to boost development," Foreign Aid Minister Lena Hjelm-Wallen told reporters at a briefing. "And where we don't believe in something, we'll say so," she added.

Sweden's total aid budget for fiscal 1990-91 (increased by 1.3 billion crowns (\$215 million) to 12.7 billion crowns (\$2.08 billion), which is one per cent of gross national product (GNP).

Only Norway, the Netherlands and Denmark give more in GNP percentage terms, according to the World Bank's world development report for 1989. The U.N. target for developed nations is 0.7 per cent of GNP annually.

While Sweden has always won plaudits for its generosity, there has been criticism at home and abroad of its support for some projects.

"We are starting to get more involved. The pendulum is definitely swinging in the direction

of active involvement," Hjelm-Wallen said.

In Ethiopia for example, Sweden has refused to support collectivised agriculture and the money now goes for other projects, many of them educational.

Hjelm-Wallen said Sweden would no longer support collectives because it did not believe such projects benefited democratic progress and free market economies.

"We used to just accept things... now we want to both support and influence progress," Hjelm-Wallen said.

Last June the government decided to freeze all aid to China in protest at the Chinese leadership's brutal suppression of the

pro-democracy movement.

"I don't think you can isolate China in the long term. But the question now is what foreign aid can do for a country like that," Hjelm-Wallen said.

Aid to China amounted to 110 million crowns (\$16 million) in 1988, mostly in the form of special credits and technological assistance.

Hjelm-Wallen said Sweden's goals were to promote democracy, currency stability and sound agricultural policies in Third World countries.

"But it is important to work with the governments constructively and not threaten them," she said.

The main recipients of Swedish

aid are the southern African frontline states. Others include India and Bangladesh, Vietnam, Laos and Nicaragua.

About half of Sweden's aid is for bilateral projects and is distributed by Swedish International Aid Authority (SIDA), the country's main aid organisation.

Right-wing opposition politicians have often criticised the Social Democrats' support of Communist and leftist governments.

Hjelm-Wallen feels the criticism is unjust. "If countries like Vietnam open, the way it is doing now, that is certainly a reason to support it," she said.

Carl Tham, SIDA's head,

endorses this view. "Vietnam and Nicaragua have both carried out major changes in their economies, both on their own," he said.

In fiscal 1990-91, Vietnam will receive aid of 300 million crowns (\$49 million), unchanged from last year. Nicaragua's donation was increased by 40 million crowns (\$6.5 million) to 270 million crowns (\$44 million).

Almost one billion crowns (\$164 million) was earmarked for Eastern Europe.

"Many of the countries in Eastern Europe have similar problems to those in the Third World," Finance Minister Kjell-Olof Feldt said in his budget.

Twists to natural process solve wastewater problems

By Bill Kaczor
The Associated Press

PENSACOLA, Florida — Nature's way of recycling water gets some wet and wild twists in machines Bill Williamson builds to clean up hazardous wastes for industries ranging from nuclear power to perfume.

"There's a whole new science that we've got to learn," said Williamson, 74, who's been experimenting with evaporation and condensation since World

War II, when he developed machines that distilled sea water aboard U.S. warships.

Williamson, a mechanical engineer, turned his attention to fighting pollution 14 years ago when he and his sons, Bruce and Rod, founded the small but fast-growing Licon Inc. in Pensacola.

"We are doing some weird things. Some smart physical chemists, when they see what we are doing, they just throw up their hands," he said.

Licon produces evaporators

that clean wastewater and let industries concentrate and reuse toxic metals and chemicals that once went down the drain into the environment. Some factories that use the machines don't even have sewers.

The evaporators, with a patented heat exchanger, operate at relatively low temperatures, high efficiency and low cost, said Rod Williamson. They can treat wastewater for 1 or 2 cents a gallon, compared to as much as 12 cents for other machines and

up to \$2 for disposal in a hazardous waste dump, he said.

One is being tested at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant; Nucor services plans to use it to decontaminate 2.3 million gallons of water irradiated in the 1979 accident that shut down the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, plant.

Licon evaporators, which cost \$14,000 to \$250,000, are in use in the United States, Canada and Europe. Most are in metal plating plants, although one is cleaning up shampoo wastes at an Alberto

Culver plant in Puerto Rico.

Customers can be found in nearly any industry that produces liquid hazardous waste, but there are limits, Rod Williamson said. Some industries, including paper mills and chemical factories, produce too much wastewater to be efficiently treated with evaporators now being produced, he said.

Bill Williamson, who holds 30 patents, said the key to the machines is low air pressure. When boiled, even freshwater

leaves a scale, although the residue is much worse with saltwater or wastewater and would quickly foul and corrode a conventional evaporator.

He said he discovered that heating water in a whole or partial vacuum, thereby lowering its boiling point, would reduce the scale and permit recovering specific salts for reuse. The machines also reuse heat the way a heat pump improves a home heating and air conditioning system.

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1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near
Ahiyyah Girls School
Take away is available
Open daily 12:00-3:30
p.m.
6:30-Midnight
Tel. 630968

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MANDARIN
Chinese Restaurant
The only typical Chinese
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Chinese Flaming pot is available
Take away available
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18:00-23:30
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Bridge
Amman, Jordan
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Engineers' Housing
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Supermarket
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specialties
Open daily 12:00-3:30
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Soviet reforms show no fruit

MOSCOW (AP) — New government figures have confirmed what Soviet shoppers already know: Most industries failed miserably at fulfilling President Mikhail Gorbachev's promise of more consumer goods in 1989.

Wheat farmers had a good year, but they were about the only ones to agriculture, according to statistics printed in most newspapers. After an investment of \$110 billion in agriculture in 1989, food production rose just one per cent — not the 6.6 per cent expected.

Most of that small increase came in grain, sugar beets and potatoes. Soviet consumers will find the last one hard to come by, since the normally ubiquitous potatoes are hard to find and are several times more expensive on the farmers' markets this winter.

Alcohol production leaped 19 per cent as authorities eased sharp restrictions on alcohol production imposed by Gorbachev in 1985 to try to cut the Soviets' severe problem with alcoholism. The restrictions caused long lines at liquor stores, and housewives trying to buy a bottle of champagne were furious at being forced to queue up for hours with obnoxious drunks.

Gorbachev's crackdown has transformed public attitudes toward drunkenness from chortling acceptance to disapproval. Bureaucrats' desperate moves to import food, medicine, cosmetics, soap and other consumer goods from the West to satisfy citizens fed up with long lines for shoddy domestic goods led to a 24 per cent increase in imports from the West, TASS said Monday.

Economists blamed irregular supply deliveries, resistance to government orders and failure to fulfill contracts for a mere 1.7 per cent rise in industrial production, TASS said.

Strikes and lack of materials causes 40 million worker-days to be lost in 1989, said V.N. Kirichenko, chairman of the government statistical commission, in the current issue of Government Herald.

The grain harvest again reached 211 million tonnes, a good year like 1986 and 1987. But the new programme of paying farmers in sought-after foreign

currency for growing extra wheat brought in just 223,000 tons, the reports said.

Soviet media said farmers found the programme had too much red tape and not enough cash.

Authorities hoped the programme would allow them to obtain grain more cheaply than the West, but they still had to import 36 million tonnes, one million tonnes more than in the previous year, according to the statistics.

Agriculture particularly suffered in areas with ethnic violence and strikes. Vegetable output dropped 27 per cent in Azerbaijan and 16 per cent in Armenia — two republics that have been engaged in a territorial dispute for two years.

The Azerbaijani blockade against Armenia for two months in fall brought much of the Armenian economy to a halt for lack of energy and materials. The Azerbaijanis have repeated the blockade in this month's ethnic violence.

Kirichenko said consumers had \$275 billion this year that they could not spend for lack of anything to buy.

But if authorities simply switch to a market economy, then

"prices for consumer goods must rise immediately a minimum of 40 per cent with sharp, undesirable social consequences," Kirichenko said.

The problem is worsening because wages are growing faster than the supply of consumer goods and services, he said.

Kirichenko said the outlook for the future is clouded even more by the fact that many environmentally dangerous factories slated to be shut down are the sole suppliers of critical items.

He said national income grew just 1.5 per cent after taking out two per cent for legally approved higher prices, imports and the increase in alcohol taxes.

Miners' strikes and newly fussy customers rejecting poor-quality coal were blamed for a drop in coal production by 32 million tonnes, the statistical report said.

Oil production also slid, by 2.6 per cent, TASS said. Industrial accidents ruined a number of oil facilities in 1989, and state TV said it would be a year before the important Baku oil fields and processing facilities were back to normal after the ethnic and nationalist violence in Azerbaijan. Although the correspondent did not elaborate, there have been reports of strikes in the Baku oil fields in the past year.

Algeria to double gas exports in '90s

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria, already one of the world's top gas exporters, plans to double sales in the 1990s, providing a welcome boost for its debt-ridden economy.

Officials of the state-run energy group Sonatrach predict growing demand for gas in the United States, Western and Central Europe and in neighbouring Maghreb states linked to Algeria in a regional economic group.

Sonatrach's ambitious plans include new natural gas pipelines to Europe and new production facilities, to be financed largely with foreign money.

"Our vision is very clear," the company's deputy general manager Mustapha Faïd said in an interview.

"By the year 2000, we aim for an export capacity of between 60 billion and 80 billion cubic metres a year of natural gas and liquefied natural gas (LNG). We also plan to double liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) (export capacity) to seven million tonnes annually," he added.

Last year Sonatrach exported a record 17.2 billion cubic metres of LNG, up 20 per cent over

1988, making it the world's second largest exporter after Indonesia. Natural gas exports climbed six per cent to 12.2 billion cubic metres.

With Algeria's oil output likely to remain steady at about 750,000 barrels a day, rising gas revenue will play a vital role in pulling the country out of its economic crisis.

The country needs more cash to pay off \$24 billion in foreign debt, feed and house a burgeoning population of about 24 million and revive stagnant industries.

Algeria's proven natural gas reserves of nearly three trillion cubic metres are the largest in Africa and the seventh largest in the world.

World demand for gas is rising as environmental concerns prompt consumers in industrialised countries to switch from dirtier fuels.

Within weeks, Sonatrach expects to sign contracts with U.S. and French firms to ramp up and expand gas liquefaction plants at Arzew on the western coast and Skikda in the east.

Faïd said work would be completed by the end of 1992, boosting total LNG capacity to 33

billion cubic metres a year from around 25 billion.

Construction of a new LNG unit of around five billion cubic metres a year was planned by the turn of the century.

Faïd projected LNG sales to the United States at 12 billion cubic metres a year by the mid-1990s, up from 6.7 billion now.

Natural gas exports are to double in the coming decade to 30 billion to 40 billion cubic metres a year through construction of a pipeline to Spain and expansion of an existing one to Italy.

Italy, Algeria's largest natural gas buyer, has agreed to help add a fourth line under the Mediterranean from Tunisia to Sicily to expand deliveries from east Algeria's giant Hassi R'Mel field.

The project, due for completion by 1993, would boost capacity to 22 billion cubic metres a year from 16 billion.

This will enable us to expand sales to Tunisia, Italy, Yugoslavia and other potential markets," Faïd said.

He said the planned pipeline to Spain via Morocco would be able to handle eight billion to nine billion cubic metres annually by

1996 and up to 20 billion in the year 2000.

Potential buyers Sonatrach is contacting included Portugal, Spain, France, West Germany, Britain, Belgium and Switzerland. Faïd said Portugal, Spain and Morocco alone could take up to 8.5 billion cubic metres a year through the line.

LPG output, not including that from refineries, is also set to double from an annual four million tonnes currently through expanded gas production, greater LPG extraction and construction of new treatment facilities.

With ample reserves and apparently ready markets, the main potential obstacle to the expansion is financial. Algeria cannot pay for big construction programmes by itself.

But Faïd said he foresaw no difficulty finding external finance through foreign joint venture partners and financial institutions.

A law liberalising foreign investment is under preparation and will pave the way for joint ventures on major projects such as new LPG and LNG units, Faïd said.

Pope appeals for aid to Africa

BOBO DIOLASSO, Burkina Faso (AP) — Pope John Paul II capped his visit to the poor African nation of Burkina Faso Tuesday by telling 20,000 people at an open-air mass not to despair in their poverty.

"You are working for the development of your country," the Pope said from an altar erected in front of a train station.

"I appeal with passion to the world to be in solidarity with you who suffer the weight of poverty. I also urge you not to get discouraged...you are often poor in material goods but rich in generosity."

Pope John Paul also urged the nation's Roman Catholics, who comprise about 10 per cent of the 8.5 million people, to collaborate with Muslims, Protestants and animists in building up the West African country.

"I encourage you to pursue interreligious dialogue with clarity and friendship," he said in a homily delivered in French, one of the official languages of the former French colony.

The Pope, his face red from heat and sun of six days in sub-Saharan Africa, smiled as dancers swayed on the altar and a female chorus ululated and sang hymns in the Djula language to the beat of drums wrapped in animal skins.

Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso's second-largest town, is located in the southwest of the country near the Ivorian border.

The mass was the Pope's last activity before departing for Chad, the last leg of his eight-day tour of five Sahel nations.

Monday night, in the capital of Ouagadougou, the Pontiff made an impassioned address urging developed nations to feed starving Africans. It came 10 years after his first appeal for the Sahel, also made during a visit to Burkina Faso.

"In the name of justice, I beg my brothers and sisters in humanity not to scorn the starving of this continent, not to deny them the universal right to human dignity and the security of life," the Pope said.

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro Tuesday quoted the 69-year-old Pope as telling local missionaries after the speech: "I made an appeal for the Sahel here 10 years ago. Today, God allowed me to renew it. If I hadn't done so I would not be able to die in peace."

In his appeal to rich countries, the Pope asked, "How would history judge a generation that, having all the means to feed the earth's population, refused to do so in fratricidal indifference?"

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES				
Tuesday, January 30, 1990 Central Bank official rates				
	Buy	Sell	French franc	116.1 117.3
U.S. dollar	659.0	665.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	480.2 464.8
Pound Sterling	1109.4	1120.5	Dutch guilder	350.0 323.5
Deutschemark	394.6	398.5	Swedish crown	107.9 109.0
Swiss franc	445.3	449.8	Italian lire (for 100)	32.1 31.6
			Belgian franc (for 10)	188.2 190.1

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES		
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.		
One Sterling	1.6810/20	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1895/905	Canadian dollar
	1.6770/77	Deutschemark
	1.8905/15	Dutch guilder
	1.4860/70	Swiss francs
	35.01/03	Belgian francs
	5.6975/7025	French francs
	1247/1248	Italian lire
	143.90/144.00	Japanese yen
	6.0800/1200	Swedish crowns
	6.4800/50	Norwegian crowns
	6.4825/75	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	418.30/418.80	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS	
TOKYO — A relatively firm yen, stabilised bond prices and a feeling that the market has bottomed out boosted shares broadly at the close. But prices were off their peaks and trade was listless. The Nikkei index closed at 37,215.67, up 41.97.	
HONG KONG — Share prices closed easier on mild overseas selling but trading remained thin after the long lunar new year holiday. The Hang Seng index fell 8.06 to 2,760.80.	
SINGAPORE — Share prices rose over a broad front on bargain-hunting and short-covering in fairly active trading. The Straits Times industrial index rose 28.61 to 1,518.14.	
BOMBAY — Share prices fell broadly on end-account considerations in cautious lacklustre trading. The Bombay Stock Exchange index fell 15.15 to 701.08.	
FRANKFURT — West German chemical stocks gained strongly on an otherwise mixed market. Dealers reported high turnover in the chemicals sector, with demand from Japanese and other foreign investors. The Dax index rose 1.02 to 1,821.57.	
ZURICH — Shares ended quietly steady. Dealers said volume was light and buying interest centred on special situation stocks. The SPI index rose 2.7 to 1,099.7.	
PARIS — French share prices ended near their day's lows after a hesitant session dominated by isolated activity on ELF, Casino and Axa-Midi, dealers said. The CAC-40 index ended 12.68 points down at 1,892.03.	
LONDON — Shares remained mixed in a day of lacklustre trading, with an early Wall Street fall providing a dampening influence. By 1545 GMT the FTSE index was 3.2 down at 2,325.6.	
NEW YORK — Wall Street stocks posted losses, weighed by concerns about rising interest rates and lacklustre corporate profits. The Dow fell 17 to 2,537.	

Bell Labs develops light-based computer

NEWARK, New Jersey (AP) — A prototype computer that processes data with light instead of electricity could be as revolutionary as the transistor that ushered in the computer age, researchers say.

The crude computer processor unveiled Monday could lead to the development of light-based supercomputers within a decade operating a hundred times faster than current machines, said Alan Huang, head of Bell Laboratories' Optical Computer Research Department.

"This stage says it can be done," said Bob Trier, technical programme director for Research Consortium Inc. of Minneapolis, which studies high-performance computing. "The next stage is to find out what can be done with this technology."

For years researchers have been looking at photons, the fundamental particles of light, as replacements for electrons in electronic equipment. Such a shift promises computers vastly more agile and powerful than today's machines.

The prototype data processor introduced by Bell Labs is the first to transmit information with light rather than electricity, the movement of electrons. The technique allows a much greater flow of data.

Unlike current computer chips, information can pass not just from a chip's edges but also from its surface.

The prototype is relatively primitive and can run little more than a dishwasher.

But by the end of the decade, supercomputers could be using more light, or "photonics," components than electronic, and may run at least 100 times faster than today's generation, Huang said.

"Your only limit when it comes to those things is the speed of light," said Jim Hammons, an analyst at the Sierra Group computer consulting firm in Tempe, Arizona.

The prototype, contained in a 60-centimetre-square box, differs from a true computer in that the programme that runs the optical processor is built into its hardware, rather than being contained in software, said Bell Labs spokeswoman Marj McKean. It also has limited memory, she said.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DAGEA
REEMY
PEESLY
RUSTEM

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: "PENCE VIGIL GIBLET EVOLVE" (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: PENCE VIGIL GIBLET EVOLVE
Answer: The hardest thing to give is --- TO GIVE IN

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Jordan to open seminar in Kuwait

AMMAN (Petra) — The Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce has embarked on preparations for holding an economic seminar in Kuwait to orient the public there on Jordan's economic prospects and areas for investment in the Kingdom as well as incentives offered to investors. A statement said that federation chairman, Mohammad Asfour, would go to Kuwait Thursday to hold talks on this subject with the country's chairman of the chambers of commerce and industry, Abdul Aziz Saqr.

Asfour would extend an invitation to a Kuwaiti economic delegation to take part in the projected seminar and would discuss a date for holding the seminar in Kuwait, the statement added.

Asfour said in a statement that the invitation to Kuwaiti delegation which would group representatives of various economic sectors and businessmen is designed as a first step to orient Kuwait on economic prospects in Jordan; and to pave the way for more active cooperation in carrying out joint projects and to invite Kuwaiti capital to be invested in the Kingdom.

Iran seeks Japanese help

TOKYO (R) — Iran is seeking Japanese expertise and finance for a five-year plan aimed at reviving its war-torn economy, Japanese trade officials said Tuesday. An Iranian oil ministry mission on a week-long visit to Tokyo unveiled details of a new economic plan allowing for the use of up to \$27 billion of foreign credit in meetings with executives at Japanese trading companies. On the Iranian project list are oil and gas development, refinery upgrading and petrochemical production. One source said Iran wants to develop super heavy crude oil fields, which have reserves estimated by Iran to total 30 billion barrels. Trade sources said the delegation gave no details of the projects.

Chile cuts debts through swaps

SANTIAGO (AP) — Chile's foreign debt was cut by \$2.76 billion in 1989 to \$16.4 billion, mostly through the swaps system, the central bank has reported. In a report the bank said the system, since it started in 1985, has allowed the nation to reduce its debt by \$8.89 billion by Dec. 31 last year. The military regime, which is scheduled to hand over power to an elected civilian government next March 11, was a pioneer in Latin America in the use of the swaps mechanism to reduce the debt. It involves foreign creditors exchanging the debt they hold for investments in the debtor country.

River cut hits Syrian crops, water and power

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria blamed Turkey Tuesday for electricity cuts and water shortages across the country, saying they were the result of Ankara's decision to cut the flow of the Euphrates River.

In the first official Syrian reaction since Turkey on Jan. 13 changed the course of the Euphrates for 30 days to fill a giant dam, an official told Reuters all cities were suffering.

Half way through the planned cut-off, the irrigation ministry official said farmers had already lost winter crops and thousands of fish had died.

He termed Ankara's action unnecessary and likely to cause enmity between the people of both countries.

"The cut had a psychological effect on the Syrian people who depend in their daily lives on the river's waters. The cut might lead to a state of enmity on the popular level, something which both the Syrian and Turkish governments exerted big efforts in recent years to remove," he added.

He said Turkey could easily have avoided cutting water to Syria and Iraq in other ways, such as operating the Karakaya Dam, some 60 kilometres up stream of the Ataturk Dam.

Listing the impact on Syria, the official said:

— Only one of eight huge hydro-electric turbines at the Euphrates Dam which provide 60 per cent of the country's electricity consumption was now working. This had resulted in rationing

electricity supplies in all cities including the capital Damascus.

— All farmers who used to pump water from the river to irrigate thousands of acres were getting no water. They had lost their winter crops.

— Drinking water to big residential complexes had been rationed supplies to smaller residential areas had to be cut completely and these places are getting water by tankers when required.

Syria would confront the Turkish move by working to reach a tripartite agreement including Iraq on sharing the river's waters to guarantee a fair share for each within international law, he said.

Both Iraq and Syria have asked Turkey to reduce the length of time that the waters would be diverted but Ankara said this was technically not possible.

It said extra water sent down the Euphrates to Syria since November meant the average flow including the cut-off period would be just over 500 cubic metres per second, as agreed under a Turco-Syrian protocol in 1987.

A Turkish official said last Sunday the diversion might end two or three days earlier than planned, thanks to heavy rainfall, but not two weeks early as sought by both Baghdad and Damascus.

Criticising Turkey's stand, the Syrian official said its action was "unjustified technically" and experts from Damascus had offered Ankara alternative ways to fill its dam.

Soviets urge closer ties with Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — A Soviet delegation called Tuesday for increased Soviet-Israeli trade, sidestepping the growing row over mass migration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

A memorandum of understanding signed by the two sides called for further talks on cooperation in areas including agriculture, communications, industry, health care and air and sea links.

Delegation head Yuri Olkhovikov, vice-president of the Soviet Peace Committee, declined to discuss Moscow's warning that Soviet Jews should not settle in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Let's talk business, I don't like talking about things in which I'm not competent," he told a news conference at the end of a week-long mission.

"The Soviet Peace Committee will do everything in its power to increase trade between the two countries," said Olkhovikov, who is also a deputy minister of economic planning for the Russian Republic.

The Soviet Peace Committee is considered a private group rather than a government body, reflecting the low level of Israeli-Soviet relations.

Olkhovikov said the date for starting direct Tel Aviv-Moscow flights — requested by Israel but delayed by the Soviet government — was secret.

The state airlines of the two countries signed an agreement for direct flights in December but formal ratification has become entangled in the issue of Jewish emigration.

Peanuts

Mutt'n' Jeff

Andy Capp

49ers return home

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The San Francisco 49ers, flush with victory after beating the Denver Broncos for the U.S. Football Championships, made a triumphant return Monday in a huge victory parade through the heart of San Francisco.

Cheers and the blares of thousands of red plastic horns resounded throughout market street as 75,000 fans recognized quarterback Joe Montana, coach George Seifert, team owner Eddie DeBartolo, and other players riding in flashy convertibles.

The 49ers became the top football team Sunday by overwhelming the Broncos 55-10 in the Super Bowl in New Orleans.

Office workers leaned out of windows to watch the parade and some tossed down showers of paper. Fans, many sporting the team colours of red and gold, arrived up to two hours early to claim good spots to view the parade, including perches on

lamp posts and newspaper racks. "There's no team in the NFL (National Football League) that can beat us," said Wayne Rayburn of Sausalito, who wore a pair of 49ers boxer shorts over his jeans to complement his official NFL team jacket.

Rayburn, who crouched on a concrete garbage can, vowed to claim the same spot and wear the same shorts again at next year's Super Bowl victory parade. Like other fans, he predicted the 49ers would win an unprecedented third consecutive football championship.

The Super Bowl victory was San Francisco's fourth in nine years and the second in a row.

Fans waved banners, clutched red and gold balloons and held small children aloft for a clear view of the parade, which was led by DeBartolo, mayor Art Agnos and Seifert, who displayed the gold Super Bowl trophy to the roaring crowd.

Australian Open points way ahead in 1990s

MELBOURNE, Australia (R) — At first glance the Australian Open which finished on Sunday might not appear a notable milestone in tennis history.

Ivan Lendl and Steffi Graf retained the titles they won last year, several players were injured and the weather blew hot and cold.

But as the dust settles on the first Grand Slam tournament of the 1990s, it may just prove to have considerable long-term significance for several of the game's big names.

Lendl, and to a lesser extent Graf, have few worries. The super-phenom will be 30 in March but is playing as well as ever and has his obsession about winning Wimbledon to occupy him.

Graf, who won her third successive Australian Open title despite seldom moving out of first gear, can concentrate on redacting her game, confident that her rule at the top will continue for some time to come.

Elsewhere, though, not everyone is as full of life's joys. Back in the United States, it required little imagination to guess what John McEnroe and Martina Navratilova were thinking about Lendl and Graf's success.

McEnroe's tournament, which started so well, turned to disaster in one moment of familiar self-destruction. Whether he would have gone on to win the title had he decided to keep his feelings about men's tour supervisor Ken Farrar to himself and not been defaulted during his fourth round match against Sweden's Mikael Pernfors is debatable.

But the volatile New Yorker, in a calmer moment, felt that he stood his best chance for several years to win another grand slam tournament and knows that time is no longer on his side.

If he decides not to come back to Australia, his Grand Slam ambitions would seem to be limited to one tournament — Wimbledon where younger men like Boris Becker and Stefan Edberg are now as formidable as McEnroe himself once was.

The future is also looking increasingly hazy for Navratilova, the world number two who decided to miss the Australian Open this year.

Sitting at home watching Graf, she will know better than anyone that she will rarely have had a better chance to beat the 20-year-old West German who has usurped her position at the top of women's tennis.

With the unfortunate Gabriela Sabatini struck down by a sprained ankle and Arantxa Sanchez at home in Spain, Navratilova would have been the champion's only realistic challenger.

Becker, too, will be in thoughtful mood. His much-publicised claims to Lendl's number one spot have been blown up in his face and, like Swede Mats Wilander before him, he is finding it difficult to regenerate his enthusiasm after touching rare heights in the Davis Cup final.

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AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP) — World champion Douglas Wakihuri won the men's marathon and Glen Housman, Hayley Lewis and Lisa Curry rounded off Australia's record-breaking display in the pool on day six of competition at the Commonwealth Games Tuesday.

But the biggest multi-sport extravaganza since the 1988 Olympic Games was rocked by a second successive drugs scandal as the ghost of Seoul continued to plague the 57-nation event.

One day after an Indian weightlifter was confirmed as having taken steroids and was sent home, speculation shifted to the Welsh delegation when organisers announced that a second athlete had tested positive.

Commonwealth Games Federation secretary David Dixon announced that for the second time in 24 hours, a competitor was found to have tested positive.

Dixon told a news conference that until the customary second test on the athlete's urine sample had taken place, "there will be no indication of which athlete, country or sport is involved."

English team officials denied rumours in the athletes' village that the alleged offender was one of their competitors.

"If it was an English competitor, we would have heard by now for sure," Caroline Searle, the England team press officer, told the Associated Press. "Therefore all I can say is that there is a strong suggestion that it is not us."

As the drugs storm swept through Auckland, speculation shifted to the Welsh camp after deputy team manager Basil George was quoted as saying it

was "highly possible" a Welsh competitor was involved.

George said his quotes were taken out of context and was backed up by overall Welsh team manager, Myrddin John.

"We have not been told anything official by anyone," John said. "I am not making any comment."

John refused to discuss the reason for a three-hour morning meeting with officials.

But one of the world's leading anti-doping campaigners, Sir Arthur Gold, chairman of the anti-doping committee of the European sports conference, said he had heard that the second reported drug-taker was from a British team, but not England.

Welsh, Scottish and Northern Irish squads also are competing as individual nations in Auckland.

"I have learned on the grapevine that it is another country from the United Kingdom," said Gold, chairman of the Commonwealth Games Association of England.

Dixon said the team management involved had been informed of the positive test and that the result would be announced Wednesday.

The second positive test kept the spectre of Seoul hanging over the 57-nation Commonwealth Games.

"It's a tragedy for the athlete, it's a tragedy for his country and it's a tragedy for the games," Dr. Howell Jones, medical commission chairman of the Commonwealth Games Federation, said Monday after an Indian weightlifter tested positive for anabolic steroids.

Organisers at first withheld the

name while awaiting the result of a second urine test. But Indian delegation chief Kanwaljit Singh Bains confirmed late Monday that Paul was the athlete involved.

He said the lifter, winner of the silver and one bronze medal in the 67.5-kilogramme category, was on his way home after being caught in random testing.

"He has been sent home to India, he is very upset," Bains said. "We are feeling very bad. We are completely against drug abuse."

Under the federation rules, competitors using banned drugs are disqualified, forced to hand back any medals awarded and expelled from the games.

Paul's positive test was the first for steroids in the 60-year history of the games. At the Edinburgh games in 1986, a Scottish non-medallist was thrown out of the shooting competition for using beta-blockers, illegal substances which regulate the nervous system.

If the second test on Paul's sample proves positive — officials said there was a one in 20,000 chance that it wouldn't show traces of the banned drug — Australia's Mark Blair, fourth in the snatch, would be awarded the bronze medal. In the clean and jerk and combined, Lawrence Iqbaloom of Nigeria would move up to the silver medal position and Mark Roach of Wales would take the bronze.

It was not known whether the second offender was a medallist although unconfirmed reports said he, too, was a weightlifter.

Wakihuri, the Olympic silver medallist, took the lead 800 metres from the finish of the

marathon to win the harbour-side race, run in cloudy, humid conditions, in 2:10.27.

"It is more important than any victory in a commercial race because now, every Kenyan school-boy will grow up knowing a Kenyan won in New Zealand," he said after pushing Australia's Steve Monaghan into the silver medal position with a sprint finish 800 metres from home.

Simon Naali of Tanzania took the bronze.

Housman, whose small, slight frame belies his reputation as one of the world's top swimmers, won the 1,500 metres freestyle in 14:55.25 seconds, just 0.49 seconds off the world record held since 1983 by Vladimir Salnikov of the Soviet Union.

Housman and fellow Australian Kieren Perkins, the silver medallist who finished in 14:58.08, joined Salnikov as the only swimmers in history to go under 15 minutes over 1,500 metres.

Housman was three seconds inside world record pace at 500 metres and more than two seconds ahead at 1,200 metres. But he dropped off gradually and despite the urging of a capacity crowd at the West Auckland swimming centre, he fell just short of the record.

"From the 800 mark I just felt like I was holding on," Housman said. "It hurt a lot, but I'm still happy to be under 15 minutes."

Lewis, a 15-year-old high school student, became the first woman to win five Commonwealth Games gold medals after swimming the fourth fastest 200 metres butterfly in the last 12 months.

a reasonable chance.

Rafael Martin Vazquez, two-goal hero of the Castellon match, continues to make headlines.

He called his second goal "the goal of a lifetime" and told the sports daily Marca that "it was my best goal as a professional... Since I was a child, I thought this moment would come, but I thought it would come much earlier..."

He said he had not decided his future for the next season but would have renewed his contract with Real if a fee had been agreed. "Now I have decided to leave it for the end of the season and that's what I'm going to do," he said.

Juventus meet Roma in the other Italian Cup semifinal.

In Spain, Real Madrid travel to fourth-placed Valencia on Wednesday hoping to add to their amazing goal tally.

The club need to score 33 goals in their remaining 17 games to break the Spanish record of 96 held by Barcelona. With 64 goals from their first 21 games, seven of them against Castellon last weekend alone, Real must stand

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Architect Rasem Jamal Badran received the grand award from the Council of Arab Cities

Mr. Badran was awarded the 1989 award of excellence from the Council of Arab Cities for his outstanding contribution in architectural research, and his continuous endeavours to recreate architecture peculiar to our Islamic culture.

Mr. Badran left to participate in the ninth session of the Council of Arab Cities convening in Marrakesh, where he will be awarded an honorary (certificate) and a golden medal from King Al Hassan of Morocco.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANHAN HIRSH
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RIDICULOUS, BUT SUBLIME

Neither vulnerable, South deals.

NORTH
♠ Q 10 2
♥ K 6 3
♦ A K 7 4
♣ A 10 5 4

EAST
♠ 6 3
♥ 10 9 2
♦ Q J 10 3
♣ K 9 7 6

SOUTH
♠ A K 8 5
♥ A Q 7 4
♦ 9 8 2
♣ 8

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♥ Pass 3 ♥ Pass
4 ♥ Pass 4 NT Pass
6 ♥ Pass 7 ♥ Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♠

Even at the highest level, players reach silly contracts. But you never know what might happen if you can play the spots off the cards. This deal is from the Czechoslovakia vs. Poland match at the recent European Championships.

North-South were using Canape, a method where the shorter of two

suits is bid first. Thus, South's first two bids showed longer spades than hearts. Thereafter, the bidding was natural if a trifle too optimistic.

The diamond lead put a crimp in declarer's chances—it knocked out a dummy entry before it could serve a useful purpose. It seemed that, even if hearts were to break 3-3, declarer had only 12 tricks—five trumps, four hearts and the three minor-suit winners. But Dame Fortune was smiling on the Canape.

Declarer won the first trick in dummy, cashed the ace of clubs and ruffed a club. Next, a diamond to the table's remaining high honor was the entry for another club ruff. Then the king of hearts was used as an entry to ruff dummy's last club, this time with the king of spades.

After cashing the ace of trumps, declarer led his remaining trump and boldly finessed the board's ten. When that held and East followed, only one more hurdle remained to be crossed. The outstanding trump was drawn and the ace and queen of hearts were cashed. When that suit broke evenly, declarer had 13 tricks—three trumps, three club ruffs, four hearts and three minor winners.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A good friend is now ready to introduce you to newcomers who can turn out to be congenial companions. Small courtesies rendered your acquaintance will bring rapport.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) An excellent time to consult with craftsmen about having everything perfect at your home. Take your attachment with you when you go to see an influential man.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You will be able to increase the efficiency and happiness at home by concentrating on it. Going on a trip with friends will bring much pleasure.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Put in motion a long-though-out plan to handle finances. Be very jovial around your attachment today to produce harmony at home.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Use the utmost care in driving with friends, whether for shopping or seeing close companions. Take time out to do what will please and give confidence to family.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) What you do of a constructive nature at your home can last for a

considerable time. Be sure you haven't forgotten something vital in starting on a trip with mate.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Use your present social popularity to contact and be with many friends. You know the right things to say and do to please your attachment.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You can make friends with those in high positions without difficulty. Making changes at your home can be to the benefit of everyone who lives there.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) If you have had any difficulties with any friends, you now have the chance to reconcile. A different attitude towards your mate brings more happiness.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Take trips to visit with your friends the most influential persons you can contact. A day for organizing times for romance with your mate.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Bring in as many outsiders as are available to aid you with your activities. You can now plan a long trip at a future time with your mate.

Today's child: If your child were born today or she will never want to operate alone but will always seek a partner in any and all thing. It is essential that this child be convinced that the individuals they choose to have around them for companions be only first class.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY JANUARY 31, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A "soft answer turneth away wrath" — and you would be wise to keep above any sort of snide attitude or questionable conduct that could cloud your reputation.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is a time when some interesting trips suddenly come up with exciting friends. Big arrangements for the future can be decided upon by you and your family.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A good friend is now ready to introduce you to newcomers who can turn out to be congenial companions. Small courtesies rendered your acquaintance will bring rapport.

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Architect Rasem Jamal Badran received the grand award from the Council of Arab Cities

Mr. Badran was awarded the 1989 award of excellence from the Council of Arab Cities for his outstanding contribution in architectural research, and his continuous endeavours to recreate architecture peculiar to our Islamic culture.

Mr. Badran left to participate in the ninth session of the Council of Arab Cities convening in Marrakesh, where he will be awarded an honorary (certificate) and a golden medal from King Al Hassan of Morocco.

LOST

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Modrow begins talks in Moscow

Gorbachev: German unity not in doubt

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said Tuesday the idea of German unity was not in doubt but needed careful preparation and responsibility on all sides.

The Soviet News Agency (TASS) said Gorbachev made his remarks to East German reporters just before he began talks in the Kremlin with East Germany's beleaguered Prime Minister Hans Modrow.

Asked for his views on the unification of the two German states, the Kremlin chief said the unity question "was not unexpected. In principle, no one puts it in doubt."

But Gorbachev added, as quoted by TASS: "However, the course of events in the world, in the GDR and in the USSR demand profound reflection on, and an analytical approach to, this question, which is an important aspect of European and international politics."

"Time itself is pressing on this process, giving dynamism to it. It is necessary to act responsibly and not decide this important question on the streets."

Modrow flew to the Soviet capital after agreeing to form a "national unity" government in East Berlin with no party affiliation and calling elections, in which the long-ruling Communists are likely to be swept aside, for March.

The Communist Party newspaper Pravda, in a report from its Berlin correspondent Mai Podklyuchnikov, said the future of the German nation "and the possibility of unification of the two German states" had become the ma-

joir question in East Germany. In his remarks as cited by TASS, Gorbachev indicated Moscow wanted to see the unity process as part of further overall European agreements on security and cooperation and reduction of military confrontation.

"There are two states, four-power obligations still exist, and there is the European process," he said.

"All this must be combined in the common interest, with no infringement of the interests of any of the sides involved."

Under post-World War II agreements, the four wartime allies — the Soviet Union, the United States, Britain and France — were responsible for the administration of Germany.

The two German states emerged from the two occupation zones, but the agreements still apply to Berlin. While the Soviet Union has a large military presence in East Germany, the U.S. and its allies maintain bases in West Germany.

East Germany's Communist Party leader, Gregor Gysi, was quoted by a West German newspaper Tuesday as saying that German unity was inevitable.

In an interview, the mass-circulation Bild asked Gysi if he and the Communist Party were opposed to the country's unification with West Germany.

"No, not at all. This process can no longer be stopped," said

Gysi, who earlier spoke out against unity.

"But it is irresponsible to act as if it was possible tomorrow. What is happening now is too fast and chaotic for me."

After headline Communist leader Erich Honecker was toppled by popular revolt in October, reformists who took over the party, like most opposition activists, remained opposed to unification.

But as the political system and economy slide towards collapse and refugees continue to stream over to West Germany, more groups have decided unity may be the easiest solution to their problems.

Honecker is in jail and facing charges of high treason.

The ailing Honecker, 77, could spend the rest of his life in prison if convicted.

Plans to try Honecker and three other former Communist Party politburo members were announced by prosecutor Hans-Juergen Joseph at a parliamentary session at which Modrow offered a grim account of the state of the nation.

Economic failures and widespread unrest forced the embattled Communist premier to move up East Germany's first-ever free elections to March 18 and to draw opposition forces into a coalition to rule in the meantime.

Meanwhile U.S. State Department Monday praised East Germany's decision to move up national elections to March.

Privately, U.S. officials were relieved that the East German

government had decided not to wait until May 6 to hold the elections. They had rated the Communist government's chances of surviving until then as no better than 50-50.

"They seem to have accelerated the schedule in order to move quickly to a more stable, more long-term regime that's based on the popular will. That's something that we support," Richard Boucher, the State Department spokesman, said.

Secretary of State James Baker visited Potsdam, East Germany, last month to demonstrate U.S. support for the new government. He held separate talks with Modrow and Lutheran clergymen, many of whom were critics of the ousted hard-line regime.

Boucher reiterated U.S. support for trends in East Germany in his statement. "The United States has, I think, clearly and consistently favoured the process of democratic reform in East Germany," he said. "We think that only by meeting the desire of the East German population for reform can stability be maintained."

Boucher added that "it remains critical that the elections be genuinely democratic, free and secret." He said the decision to move up the elections was designed to promote stability in East Germany by establishing a government based on popular will.

"We agree that the installation of a legitimate government based on free elections is the best guarantee of long-term stability," Boucher said.

Bulgarian Communists start party congress

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP) — The ruling Communists opened a key Congress Tuesday with reformers facing a stiff challenge from hardliners and the party leader offering few ideas to avert a possible split.

Reform delegates had voiced worried that holdovers from the 35-year-old of ousted conservative Todor Zhivkov might succeed in preserving their posts and privileges at the extraordinary, three-day congress.

The reform-minded leadership, which removed Zhivkov from office on Nov. 10 as the democratic fever blowing through Eastern Europe swept up Bulgaria, has promised multi-party democracy with elections in May.

But party chief Peter Mladenov, who engineered Zhivkov's ouster, offered few suggestions Tuesday for preventing a possible break in party ranks.

However, he hinted he may make way for a new party chief when he suggested the congress vote to split the posts of party chief and president which he assumed after Zhivkov's departure.

"It's my suggestion that the comrades adopt a decision that the same person should not be leading the party and the state at the same time," he told the 3,000 delegates.

Earlier, the state-run daily Otechestven Front published an interview with radical delegate Ivan Dimitrov saying he expected conservatives to prevail.

Signaling a break with Zhivkov, he issued a stinging criticism of the former leader by calling him a "maniac," an "egotist" and a man "without any intellectual capacities."

Mladenov also accused Zhivkov of staging fake trials to suppress the opposition, calling it the "most brutal terrorist means." Said Mladenov, without further explanation, "those designs ultimately failed."

The Communist Party chief made no mention of ongoing talks with the Union of Democratic Forces, an opposition group espousing multi-party democracy.

The party congress was moved up from 1991 to cope with growing threats to communist power. Mladenov acknowledged the pressure, but said the party was the only one capable of changing society.

The Communists have resisted opposition calls for access to resources including office space and the mass media and the party's more conservative elements still hold considerable sway in the provinces.

The Bulgarian News Agency (BTA), said 85 per cent of the 3,000 Communist delegates, who have the power to elect a new party leadership, were attending a congress for the first time.

On Monday, the chief prosecutor's office announced that Zhivkov, 78, had been moved from house arrest to a prison for people accused of major crimes.

Ava Gardner laid to rest

SMITHFIELD, North Carolina (AP) — Ava Gardner, a North Carolina sharecropper's daughter who rose to stardom in the 1940s, was buried Monday in the town where she grew up.

"We come to celebrate this life who brought so much to so many publicly but who brought so much to so many privately as well," the Rev. Francis Bradshaw, pastor of Centenary United Methodist Church in Smithfield, said at a graveside service. "She touched lives the world over."

After battling recurring pneumonia for several years, Miss Gardner, 67, died Thursday at her apartment in London, where she had lived the past two decades. She had suffered a mild stroke a few years ago.

Four hundred to 500 people stood in drizzling rain at Sunset Memorial Park in Smithfield, a few kilometres from the tiny community of Brogden, where Miss Gardner was on Christmas Eve, 1922, and lived until she was 13. Smithfield was the town "she knew and loved as home," the minister said.

Floral arrangements taken to the cemetery included a large arrangement featuring white doves among the flowers and a card signed, "with my love, Fran-



Ava Gardner

cois." Funeral home directors said they did not know if it had been sent by Frank Sinatra, her third husband.

Sinatra and Miss Gardner divorced in 1957, after six years of marriage. Miss Gardner had been married twice before, the first time to Mickey Rooney, then to jazz bandleader Artie Shaw.

Family and friends said Miss Gardner often visited, although her family moved to Newport News, Virginia, when she was 13. "She was a nice lady — real reserved," said Alan Gardner of Raleigh, a first cousin of Miss Gardner. "She dressed in old clothes and wore no makeup when she was here so she looked quite different."

Gardner said he last saw her at a family reunion in Smithfield 12 years ago.

2 killed, 11 hurt in Kosovo riots

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AP) — At least two ethnic Albanians have died and 20 are seriously injured in battles with police on the sixth day of unrest in troubled Kosovo province.

Eight deaths have been confirmed since last Wednesday in the latest wave of violence between police and ethnic Albanians who demand free elections and the lifting of a 12-month-old state of emergency.

The violence is the latest outburst in the tensions that plague this ethnically diverse federation. The Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug, said one protester was killed Monday in Urosevac, 50 kilometres south of Pristina, the capital of Kosovo, and the second died in Gnjilane, 10 kilometres south of Pristina.

Tanjung said, without elaboration, that "several policemen" were injured in clashes with demonstrators throughout the province.

Yugoslavia's collective state presidency and the government issued separate statements, both describing the Kosovo situation as "extremely grave" and promising "resolute action" against ethnic "Albanian extremists and

separatists." Riots began last year after the Serbian Republic, of which Kosovo is an autonomous province, made constitutional changes to take tighter control.

About 90 per cent of the people in the impoverished southern province are ethnic Albanians, predominantly Muslim. The minority Christian Serbs say the Muslims in Kosovo, which is adjacent to Albania, want to force them out.

Tensions were heightened Monday by the resumption of trial proceedings against 14 ethnic Albanians, including the province's former Communist leader, on charges of inciting a wave of unrest last year that left at least 25 people dead.

After a brief court session, the trial was rescheduled for Feb. 5, apparently because of the tense situation, Tanjug said.

In the city of Fushajev, about 50 kilometres north of Pristina, riot police lobbed tear gas and used a water cannon to disperse about 2,000 demonstrators.

Tanjung said 8,000 people assembled at Drenica, 40 kilometres north west of Pristina, for "peaceful demonstrations."

Hundreds of people lined up on the sidewalk of Pristina's main street to sign a petition calling for democratic elections, the lifting of martial law, and the release of all ethnic Albanian political prisoners.

"Only a democratic dialogue can solve the present problems of Kosovo, this is our contribution to it," said Yusuf Berisha, head of the Association of Sociologists and Philosophers. His group is part of the opposition coalition that drew up the petition.

Berisha said 2,000 people had signed the petition in the first two hours.

"We expect more than one million people to sign it," said Zekeria Cema, secretary of the Kosovo Human Rights Committee, another coalition member.

Bogdan Kecman, a leader of Kosovo's minority Serbs, rejected any dialogue with the ethnic Albanian movements, however, describing them as "terrorists and separatists."

"We demand that the state give us weapons to protect lives from the Albanians," he told reporters.

Rallies underline political tensions in Romania

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — Two huge rallies in two days have underlined the political tensions running through post-revolutionary Romania.

On Monday, thousands of cheering demonstrators rallied in support of the provisional government. Their number surpassed the more than 15,000 people who filled victory square Sunday in the largest anti-government display since the December revolution.

Romanian news media also reported pro-government demonstrations in several other cities without giving numbers of participants or other details.

Another crowd of several thousand massed outside the offices of the main opposition party, the National Peasant Party, which had organised Sunday's anti-government protests.

"We won't leave until you dissolve the party," the crowd chanted outside the opposition party's offices. "The police are with us," they shouted, as a police car and armoured personnel carrier arrived.

Some demonstrators arrived in trucks Monday, an indication the pro-front rallies were well-organised. Several people said they left their factories along with their bosses to support the front.

Meanwhile, front council member Silviu Brucan said Sunday's rally had been an attempt to topple the provisional government.

50 political prisoners break out of Chilean jail

SANTIAGO (R) — Fifty Chilean prisoners, several of whom were involved in an attempt on the life of military President Augusto Pinochet three years ago, broke out of a jail in central Santiago Tuesday.

The inmates escaped before dawn along a 50-metre tunnel which broke through inside a railway yard, the prison service said in a statement.

A prison service spokesman said most of the escapees were "subversives," the term used by the military government to describe leftist guerrillas.

A man claiming to represent a political prisoners' organisation said in calls to radio stations that the breakout was part of a campaign to demand freedom for all the so-called political detainees.

Pinochet's military government denies Chile has any political prisoners but human rights lawyers estimate there are over 450 people in jail on politically-related charges.

President-elect Patricio Aylwin, who takes office on March 11, has promised to free the majority of the political prisoners.

U.K. urges U.S. passports for Hong Kong residents

WASHINGTON (AP) — British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd on Monday urged the United States to grant U.S. passports to Hong Kong residents who work for U.S. companies, to help smooth the colony's transition from British to Chinese rule.

Many Hong Kong residents have been fleeing on the assumption that China will not let them leave after it takes over in 1997.

The news plan is intended to assure Hong Kong residents of their security by giving them U.S. passports should they wish to leave, Hurd told reporters after meeting with Secretary of State James Baker.

Hurd said he also "mentioned" the idea in a later Oval Office meeting with President George Bush. "The president did not react," he told reporters outside the White House.

Hurd said it was "not because we are internationalising the problem. Not at all. The political future of Hong Kong is a matter

between us and China. ...But I did suggest to Mr. Baker and mentioned to the president that it would be helpful."

Hurd was meeting President George Bush and other leaders on his first trip to Washington since assuming office last October. His talks focused on upcoming changes within the NATO alliance in light of the changes sweeping away the old order in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Hurd said that if Hong Kong residents holding key positions leave the territory, stability could not be maintained during the complicated transition period. He said he told Baker that "it would be enormously helpful" if the United States provided passports to islanders working for U.S. firms.

Hurd said he had appealed to Baker for U.S. understanding of his government's handling of more than 40,000 Vietnamese boat people in Hong Kong.

Protesters delighted over U.S. plans to close 9 military bases

LONDON (AP) — Western European governments reacted calmly Monday to U.S. plans to close nine military bases in Europe, while nuclear-weapons opponents who once besieged some of the installations expressed delight.

In Moscow, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Vadim Pavlov said, "both the U.S. and USSR have agreed the cold war is over. Any vestige of that should be relegated to history."

At the Greenham Common nuclear missile base west of London — probably the best-known of the bases slated for closure — women who have maintained "peace camps" around the muddy perimeter for nearly a decade said they believed their long protest paid off.

In Italy, where another U.S. missile base, Comiso, is scheduled for closure, a spokesman for Premier Giulio Andreotti declared, "the announcement is a sign of the times."

The bases are among 14 U.S. foreign military installations — including nine in Europe — and more than 60 in the United States which U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney announced he wants to close or realign to save money.

"The news expresses the new reality of the climate of cooperation between East and West," said Andreotti's spokesman, Pio Mastrolucchi.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, a firm opponent of any significant disarmament by the West despite the crumbling of Communist governments in the East Bloc, had "no objections" to the base-closing plans, said a spokeswoman.

"We've discussed the proposals with the United States. We have objections," the spokeswoman said in a brief comment. She spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Greek parliament, which was due to vote Monday on a six-month extension of the 1983 agreement covering U.S. bases, postponed the vote for two days.

Instead, Defense Minister Thanasis Thanasiadis announced that two of the four major military installations in the country are to go.

They are the Hellenikon base outside Athens used by reconnaissance aircraft that shadow the Soviet fleet in the Mediterranean, and Nea Miskri, a U.S. naval communications base 35 kilometres

from the capital. Community leaders and businessmen in several areas near bases expressed concern at what will amount to losses of millions of dollars annually.

As well as Greenham Common, two other of the 66 U.S. military installations in Britain were being closed.

They are Fairford, a base for 18 KC135 air-to-air refuelling tankers in south-central England 40 kilometres from Oxford, and Wethersfield, eastern England, a base for a civil engineering unit.

The other proposed base closures in European NATO countries were two in Turkey and one in West Germany.

In addition, the British Defence Ministry said a squadron of American F-16 fighters based at Bentwaters in eastern England was to be disbanded.

"We have to make our operations cost just a little bit less. ... We feel this is the way to do it in the United Kingdom," said Lt.-Col. Sam Glanville, director of public affairs for the 3rd U.S. Air Force, based at Mildenhall in the eastern English county of Norfolk.

Jean Hutchinson, 54, a longtime member of a ramshackle camp on the Greenham Common base perimeter, said, "the Americans will leave Greenham rather than other bases thanks to the work of thousands of women."

Said Evelyn Parker, another Greenham anti-nuclear campaigner, "it's stunning news. This has been an amazing thing to live through."

Missiles are being removed from Greenham, Comiso and other bases for cruise and Pershing II missiles under the 1987 U.S.-Soviet agreement to eliminate their medium-range nuclear missiles.

Glanville said Greenham Common, from which the last cruise missiles are due to go next year, and Fairford will be put on a "standby" basis. He said the United States will maintain a small presence at each site in case it needed to reactivate the base. Wethersfield will be "handed back" to Britain's Royal Air Force.

Some 3,000 Americans personnel will be withdrawn from Britain, or about 7.5 per cent of the total, under the proposal announced Monday, he added.

COLUMN

2 skiers have money to burn

KALISPELL, Montana (AP) — Two skiers decided last weekend they had money to burn, and the decision may have saved their lives. Flathead County Sheriff Check Rhodes said the two skiers — Don Wing and Jack Johnson, both 29 and from Calgary, Canada — strayed out of bounds at the Big Mountain Ski Resort and got lost. They were reported missing about 4:30 p.m., and more than 30 searchers set out in the heavy snow shortly after dark to find the men. Searchers were hindered by waist-deep snow, Rhodes said. The lost skiers' tracks were filled with several inches of snow, but could be followed. Fortunately, Rhodes said, the lost skiers were found about 11:30 p.m., snug and warm beside the camp fire they had started — by burning dollar bills. Wing and Johnson told searchers they realised about 3:30 p.m. that they were lost. They said they decided to use their money and a cigarette lighter to start the fire, then sat down to wait for help. The sheriff said the lost skiers had made the right decision.

'Robin Hud' pleads guilty

BALTIMORE (AP) — A real estate agent dubbed "Robin Hud" said she tried to help as many poor people as she could before getting caught for embezzling at least \$4.75 million in housing funds from the government. Marilyn Louise Harrell smiled throughout a hearing in U.S. district court, where she pleaded guilty to charges that she stole money from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development — known as HUD. "I thought I'd get caught a long time ago," Harrell, 46, said after the hearing. "I'm sorry for what I did. I figured I was history and would help as many as I could before I went down." Harrell, who claims she gave millions to charity because she is a Born-Again Christian, said she had decided to plead guilty as part of a plea agreement because she did not want to spend taxpayers' money on a trial. She pleaded guilty to stealing government property and failing to report income for taxes. As part of the plea bargain, prosecutors dropped two other tax counts, two counts of lying to HUD officials, and one count of lying to a bank on a loan application.

Catalonia gets Dali paintings

BARCELONA (AP) — Most of the 190 paintings willed to the Spanish state by the late surrealist artist Salvador Dali are to remain in his native Catalonia under an agreement reached Monday. Culture Minister Jorge Semprun and Catalan Culture Commissioner Joan Guinart signed the agreement, which ended a year of bickering that began after Dali's will was made public shortly after his death last Jan. 23. Under the agreement, the Reina Sofia Art Centre in Madrid is to display the Great Masturbator, considered one of the flamboyant painter's greatest works and reportedly one of the last sticking points of the talks. Other 55 paintings are also to be on display in the Reina Sofia Art Centre in Madrid, and the remaining 134 are to be kept in the building housing Dali's theatre-museum in Figueras, where he lived his last years confined to a wheelchair. In addition to the 190 paintings, the artist's estate includes two castles, 500 sculptures and other Dali-designed objects, and hundreds of signed prints.

Global weather (major world cities)

BARCELONA (AP) — A severe cold front is expected to sweep across Europe and the Mediterranean Sea, bringing heavy rain and strong winds to the region. The front is expected to arrive in the area around Wednesday night and continue through Thursday. Weather officials are advising residents to be prepared for possible flooding and power outages.

NEW YORK (AP) — A major snowstorm is expected to hit the Northeast and Great Lakes regions of the United States, starting late Tuesday night and continuing through Wednesday. The storm is expected to bring heavy snow and strong winds, with some areas receiving up to 12 inches of snow. Travel is expected to be difficult, and schools are likely to be closed.

TOKYO (AP) — A powerful typhoon is expected to make landfall in the Philippines and Southeast Asia, bringing heavy rain, strong winds, and possible flooding. The typhoon is expected to arrive in the region around Wednesday morning. Authorities are advising residents to evacuate low-lying areas and to be prepared for possible power outages.

SAO PAULO (AP) — A severe cold front is expected to sweep across South America, bringing heavy rain and strong winds to the region. The front is expected to arrive in the area around Wednesday night and continue through Thursday. Weather officials are advising residents to be prepared for possible flooding and power outages.

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